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# THE TIMES

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INTERNATIONAL EDITION

No 64,293

MONDAY MARCH 30 1992

45p

## Major celebrates with jelly and waits for the electorate's happy returns



Forty-niner: Central Office staff, led by Tory chairman, Chris Patten, gave John Major and his wife, Norma, jelly and cake to celebrate his 49th birthday yesterday. No jitters, page 7

## Worried Tories pin hopes on 10m don't knows

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Conservatives are planning a back to basics campaign for the last ten days of the election in an attempt to win over the record ten million voters who have still not decided which party to support.

After a weekend of strategy meetings John Major has told his colleagues to relegate posters and stunts to the background and to campaign vividly on the issues of taxation, living standards and Britain's place in the world.

The prime minister wants his campaign team to concentrate on convincing the electorate that only the Tories can be trusted to lift Britain out of the recession. Party strategists will not have been encouraged, however, by a

survey published yesterday which showed a soaring rate of business failures in the first quarter of this year.

Although the "time for a change" argument puts the Conservatives' attempt for a record fourth term at risk, Mr Major believes that Mr Kinnock would have a clear lead in the polls by now if people wanted a Labour government.

He has told colleagues that people "don't want to vote Labour but want to know why they should vote for us".

He has been assured that the Conservative vote is solid, but he is well aware that there are a record number of undecided voters.

Although the party strategists are denying suggestions that the campaign tactics have been switched after internal criticism of lacklustre efforts, they are admitting to "shifting up a gear" after some agonised reappraisal in weekend meetings. There will be much more emphasis on the positive as well as a continued assault on the likely consequences of Labour's taxation and spending policies.

Mr Major has increased his speech programme and will make a "nightmare on Kinnock Street" speech tomorrow, contrasting how the country would look after five more years of Tory reforms with five years of a Labour government. Having enjoyed the crowd participation in Luton market, Mr Major wants to get closer to real voters. He has promised colleagues he will "get up on his soapbox on street corners up and down the land" and demonstrate some of the passion which has been evident at table-thumping sessions in Conservative Central Office. Mr Major has also signalled an "all or nothing" determination to win, telling colleagues that there will be no question of any kind of deal between the Tories and the Liberal Democrats.

Leading Conservatives took some cheer from the weekend polls. They noted that Labour's lead had been trimmed on health, education and unemployment and that their margin over Labour on having the best tax policies had increased. They will return to the subject of taxation today, although they also hope to

get closer to real voters. He has promised colleagues he will "get up on his soapbox on street corners up and down the land" and demonstrate some of the passion which has been evident at table-thumping sessions in Conservative Central Office. Mr Major has also signalled an "all or nothing" determination to win, telling colleagues that there will be no question of any kind of deal between the Tories and the Liberal Democrats.

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Election 92, pages 7-11  
Peter Kinnock, page 14  
Diary, page 14

Leading article, page 15  
Soaring failures, page 19  
Life and Times, page 7

## Town of no name is out in the cold

In the looking-glass world of the Soviet Union the only places where communism worked were closed to visiting eyes, writes *May Day*

A n hour's drive north of Krasnoyarsk, amid the Siberian snows and silver birches, is a city of 100,000 people which does not exist.

There is a neo-classical town square, still adorned with a standard-issue statue of Lenin, and stuccoed buildings topped with big red letters spelling "Peace to the world" and "Glory to work". There is also an immaculate museum, staffed with clocks and samovars, chronicling the city's 42-year history.

Yet "our town", as the museum's brochure calls it, has no real name and it is on no map. Even a few months ago, anyone imparting any information about it would have been arrested. I became one of the first Westerners ever to see this closed military town, code-named Krasnoyarsk-26, after its postal code, which is also known as Atom-city and aspires to become "North-Krasnoyarsk" as it emerges from the secret world and looks for Western investment in its hi-tech expertise.

T he town has some dozen big defence factories, design and assembly shops for spaceships and satellites, and an underground nuclear power station. In addition it has thousands of square feet of vacant and largely unfinished factory and laboratory space which may never be occupied.

The former Soviet Union had several categories of closed towns and areas. Krasnoyarsk-26 was in the highest, top-secret category. The existence of two others was disclosed earlier this year. What has forced them into the open is lack of money. The system that gave

Continued on page 18, col 1

Yeltsin flounders, page 12  
Bernard Levin, page 14

## Princess to fly home after father dies of heart attack

BY GEOFF KING

EARL Spencer, the father of the Princess of Wales, died yesterday after suffering a heart attack. The news was broken to the princess during a skiing holiday in Austria with the Prince of Wales and their two sons. She is expected to fly home today.

The princess and Prince William visited the earl, who was 68, last week, the day before she left the country.

She spent 25 minutes with him at the Humana Wellington hospital in London, where he was recovering from treatment for pneumonia.

The news of Lord Spencer's death put an end to a holiday which had seen the princess and her family in high spirits as she, her husband and her

two sons skied together for the first time. Just over an hour before reporters were told, the Prince of Wales and Prince Harry were playing in the snow at the back of their hotel.

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TODAY IN  
THE TIMES

HOME AND  
OVERSEAS



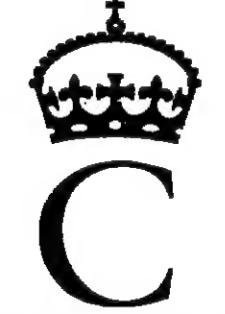
Save up to 50 per cent on a weekend break in Britain or enjoy two nights for the price of one on the Continent  
Life & Times, Page 8

WORLDWIDE  
HORIZONS



From Milton Keynes to Japan, science under the microscope  
Life & Times, Page 9

UNIVERSAL  
SYMBOL



The Prince of Wales goes to market his disparate activities complete with logo and slogan  
Life & Times, Page 1

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## Newspaper makes its own front page news

BY KERRY GILL

FOR the first time in 176 years a general election campaign will be reported today on the front page of the Dundee Courier, an act hitherto unthinkable on the last daily British paper to carry only advertisements on page one.

Issue number 43,272 will cast aside a tradition stretching back to 1816 after 86 per cent of readers between the ages of 18 and 64, perhaps grudgingly, said that they would accept a change to reading news on the front page instead of advertisements for mole-catchers, church notices and car boot sales.

Issue number 43,272 of Britain's most popular regional morning newspaper outside Glasgow, Saturday's edition, should become a collectors' item. With front page news and colour pictures due to appear from today, "We have got a wider range of news which is delightful. One of our strengths is that we can react to changing news well into the early hours

lectables, from pop moments to postage stamps, from old crisp packets to yes, maybe. The Courier itself.

Reflecting a move made by *The Times* on May 3, 1966, and *The Inverness Courier* in September, 1990, today's edition is expected to run with a mix of election, international and local stories on page one. Traditionally the newspaper has printed the most important news items in the centre. Thus on Saturday readers were told to turn to page 13 for items such as "Hospital bug wreaks havoc", and to page 16 for "United's double signing".

For sport too will have a new home, on the back page, ousting lists of births, marriages and deaths, which move to page two. Steve Bargerton, news editor, could offer few clues as to what would appear on page one today. "We have got a wider range of news which is delightful. One of our strengths is that we can react to changing news well into the early hours

of the morning," he said. Decisions on page one stories would not be finalised until mid-evening and changes could be made until the 4am Dundee edition.

Formerly known as *The Courier and Advertiser*, its editor, Ian Stewart, is determined to retain the newspaper's intrinsic community feel. Almost 115,000 people buy the newspaper each day and they will not find any changes in the content.

Dundee was once known as the city of "jam jute and journalism", now only the journalism survives, but at least it looks healthy. Mr Stewart said: "Regionals are not having the best of times but we have always been ahead. We are top of the league of regional papers nationwide." What Dundonians and their neighbours in such rural outposts as Bucklebury, Gellyburn and Glendevon will make of life's events plastered over page one, and back page sport, is yet to be discovered.

Births, marriages,  
deaths..... 16,17

# State schools centre will publicise successes

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers launched their most determined counter-attack today on critics of state schools. The two headteachers' associations announced plans for an information centre for state schools, hoping to emulate the success enjoyed by a parallel sector for the independent sector.

Acting independently of government as a non-profit making company, the centre is intended to publicise the achievement of state schools and counter the impression that standards are failing. As well as analysing performance, it will advise heads on promoting their schools.

## Executive role urged for heads

HEAD teachers demanded government action yesterday to clarify their relationship with school governors in the light of the long running dispute at Stratford School, east London (John O'Leary writes).

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, called for heads to become chief executives with overall responsibility for the management of their schools. They would be accountable to a board of governors, similar to those in business and industry.

"The board of governors, having appointed a chief executive and provided the necessary framework in terms of policy and budget, should then expect the person appointed to get on with the task," Mr Hart told the association's secondary schools conference in Cardiff. "Governors should, as far as possible, avoid becoming involved themselves in the detail of the school's management."

John Dunford, head of Durham Johnston comprehensive, whose lobbying brought the project to fruition, said: "For too long the state system, and the comprehensives in particular, have been media whipping boys. Every survey or report on education is given a negative slant. Opinion surveys show that 90 per cent of parents are satisfied with state schools but that is not the impression you get in the press. It is about time some of the good things were put across."

The two associations are raising £50,000 to launch the initiative with a chief executive and offices in London. They hope that most state schools will later pay a small annual subscription to meet the centre's costs.

The initiative was inspired by the success of the independent Schools Information Service. Tim Devlin, the first director of ISIS, said: "When the service was set up in 1972, it countered the then prevailing attitude that private schools were anachronistic. The media only talked of top-hatted toffs getting up to larks, not new science labs and modern developments. ISIS helped to change that and caught something of a new wave. I feel the centre can do that as well."

• Schools are in danger of neglecting the promotion of human values, true learning and good behaviour because of the pressure for results. Cardinal Basil Hume has told headteachers.

"The idea that education consists solely in the acquisition of skills and the learning of facts is ... a woefully inadequate one," he told the Secondary Heads' Association at the weekend. Religious education could be neutral between faiths but a school still had to advocate basic human values.

Cardinal Hume said that he had nothing but praise and admiration for the dedication and professionalism of the headteachers he had met.



Instincts sharpened: a Bristol estate agent learns how to defend herself in a training session with Constable Chris Nott, of Redland police station, in the city. Prompted by the kidnapping of Stephanie Slater in January, the Avon and Somerset police are instructing 13

local women estate agents in self-defence (Rachel Kelly writes). The woman who suggested the self-defence course to Black Horse Agencies said: "The lessons should be done by everybody. They made me think how I would react in a crisis. Everybody reacts differently."

courses, which take place in an empty house, concentrate on making the women more aware but are tailored to the pressures of the profession. They point to the need, for example, to note the means of escape in a house and to use the women's own natural reactions if

a woman is a natural runner, the police will teach her to take advantage of that. If she is a natural hitter, her skills will be developed. The training also emphasizes the dangers inherent in going round a strange house. Richard Harding, area director for Black

Horse, said: "We are very much aware of the dangers our job can entail. There is no golden rule, but if a girl gets a bad feeling about somebody who does not look her in the eye or seems shifty, the police tell her to follow her instincts and make sure she doesn't go alone."

## Father murdered by UVF gunman

BY EDWARD GORMAN IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE outworn Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) claimed responsibility for the murder of a Roman Catholic father of three, shot dead at his home in Portadown, County Armagh, yesterday.

The UVF, in a statement to a local radio station, claimed that its victim, Terry McConville, aged 43, was a known IRA member. This was denied by his family and by residents who believed that Mr McConville had been shot in retaliation for an IRA mortar attack on a police car in Newry on Friday night, in which a policewoman was killed and a colleague injured.

According to police and local reports, a masked gunman burst into Mr McConville's home in Portadown, at about 3.30am. After first going into the bedroom of one of his daughters, the gunman went into the main bedroom where he shot

Mr McConville. A close friend of the victim said Mr McConville, who worked at Craigavon Hospital and played drums in a local dance band, had no interest in politics or religion. "The man was neither Protestant nor Catholic. He had a heart for living and playing in a band and looking after his family," he said. Mr McConville's widow and daughters issued a statement calling for no retaliation for his murder.

The policeman injured in the mortar attack was still seriously ill yesterday, after losing both legs in the blast. The policewoman killed was Colleen McMurray, aged 34, whose husband is also a police officer. The RUC described her as a fine caring officer. She is the sixth police woman to have been killed in the troubles this year and the fourth in Newry. The total death toll so far is 38, but one was civilian.

## Mosque is split by struggle for power

BY CRAIG SETON

A BITTER conflict has divided the Muslim leadership of one of Britain's largest mosques and led to its chairman of 17 years being ousted by rivals.

Dr Mohammad Naseem, chairman of the council of management of Birmingham's central mosque since 1975, was voted out of office at an annual meeting last month after allegations that he failed to consult colleagues and complained over his leadership style. The 67-year-old family doctor from Handsworth, Birmingham, claims that the meeting was unconstitutional and intends to take legal action to regain his position. In the meantime, the locks on the mosque's offices have been changed and on one occasion the police were called during the dispute between the new officials and Dr Naseem and his supporters.

Dr Naseem's rivals among the 21-member management council and a wider body of 60 trustees say that he had an autocratic style and that feelings intensified over his leadership during discussions about plans to develop land alongside the mosque and claims that money had been wasted on costs. Yesterday Dr Naseem denied that he was dictatorial. He said: "As far as I am concerned I am still the chairman until the matter is decided by the courts."

Fazlun Khalid, aged 60, a management consultant, is the new secretary of the management council. He said yesterday: "This is basically about the management style of an individual. One of the basic principles about doing things in the Islamic community is consultation. The entire community must be consulted and that was not happening."

He said that an annual meeting had not been held for 18 months. Neutral trustees concerned about the delay had taken legal advice before calling an agm that elected new members and officials. He added: "As far as we are concerned it is a fait accompli. We are in control of the mosque. Dr Naseem is still a member of the council and he is welcome to turn up."

## Charity cash used 'to prop up NHS'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of pounds raised in charitable appeals by the NHS are being used to prop up inefficient services and promote unfair competition, according to a study.

In London alone, appeals totalling more than £100 million are underway at half a dozen of the best known hospitals, including Guy's, St Thomas's, the Hammersmith and Royal Marsden and King's College. Many are using their charitable income to subsidise services so that they can undercut rivals by charging a lower price or make a larger surplus, the study *Charity and NHS Reform* published by the Directorate for Social Change, says.

"A hospital could achieve success in the internal market not because its services were particularly efficient, or of good quality, but because it had a large charitable income," the study says. Total charitable income to the NHS is estimated at £370 million a year, only 1 per cent of the total NHS budget. But the money is unevenly distributed with some hospitals in wealthy areas receiving mil-

lions of pounds. Guy's, St Bartholomew's and St Thomas's each have trust funds worth over £50 million.

The study says that the role of charity in the NHS has altered fundamentally. Charitable money is no longer reserved for buying extra facilities or developing new treatments but is now used for "core services", including building and equipping new hospitals. It says the growth in fund raising "may tempt the Exchequer to cut back accordingly when allocating public funds to the NHS".

In some cases charitable money is being used to shore up inefficiency. "Hospital-based research units who have found it hard to win research grants ... have launched major appeals to boost their income from charity." Health authorities have been permitted to raise funds direct from the public only since 1980. There are now 2,300 appeals registered with the Charity Commission. The study says NHS trusts see charitable fund raising as "a relatively easy way of generating extra income".

## Teenager killed in stolen car

A teenager was killed at the weekend when he lost control of a sports car he had just stolen from outside a night club.

Matthew Pennick, aged 19, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, was killed instantly when the Ford Escort XR3 Turbo hit a tree as it rounded a tight bend at high speed. The accident happened on the road from Halifax to Huddersfield late on Saturday night.

Police confirmed yesterday that the car had been stolen and appealed for witnesses.

### Last broadcast

A 67-year-old radio transmitter which broadcast the BBC's first national programme, in the 1920s, shut down yesterday. The Daventry Transmitter Station at Borough Hill, Northamptonshire, beamed its last radio signals to southern Europe and Africa. During the last phase of its life the station was transmitting World Service programmes on short wave.

### Gulf widens

The gap between the poor and better-off widened in the 1980s, with income in the top fifth of households rising by almost £3,000 at 1989 prices to £28,124. The income of the poorest fifth fell by £160 to £3,282 over the same period, the Low Pay Unit has reported. A couple with two children on half average earnings now pays £9 a week more in direct tax, excluding VAT and poll tax, than in 1979.

### Murder charge

A prisoner has been charged with murdering a fellow inmate at Wayland prison, Norfolk. The dead man, Victor Osborne, aged 46, from London, who was serving six years for possessing drugs, was stabbed in the jail on Saturday night, police said. He was taken to hospital in Norwich but died later. A man will appear before magistrates at Telford today charged with murder.

### Civil War show takes to the road

AN exhibition sponsored by *The Times* to mark the 350th anniversary of the outbreak of the Civil War may revive ancient rivalries between the towns of Nottingham and Newark (Robin Young writes). The exhibition, the first travelling display to be mounted in Britain by the Royal Armouries, England's oldest museum, will open at the Castle Museum in Nottingham on August 2.

While Nottingham was on the side of the parliamentarians, Newark, commanding the other strategic bridge over the Trent, was steadfastly for the king.

The exhibition will first be seen at the Towns Docks Museum, Hull, from April 11 to May 31; then June 6 to July 26. Whitefriars Museum, Coventry, August 2 to September 20. Castle Museum, Nottingham, September 26 to January 3, 1993. Foregate Museum, Worcester, January 9 to March 28, 1993. Corinium Museum, Cirencester.

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CAMBRIDGE dows were yesterday disputing suggestions that they had slipped behind their greatest rivals, at Oxford. A book by two neutral academics gives Oxford a clear edge in a comparison of the two universities. The study will provide the most detailed judgment for nearly 30 years of their strengths.

Brian Salter, of Kent University, and Edward Tapper, of Sussex University, have been working on the project for five years. The two political scientists have tried to assess the degree to which Oxford and Cambridge have adapted to changes in the university system, and which has had closer links with industry, new management methods, and less reliance on public funds.

The book, Oxford, Cambridge and the Changing

Idea of the University, to be published in May, will show the universities' outstanding the rest in most areas. But Oxford emerges on top in various indicators.

Both have top ratings for research in most subjects. The book makes no judgment on teaching quality but says Cambridge is behind Oxford in the value of its research grants and the proportion of income from private sources.

Cambridge is reluctant to comment until it has seen the research but does not accept that Oxford has superiority. The book credits Oxford with a more successful fund-raising campaign, for example, but Cambridge argues that the inclusion of research income exaggerates the gap between two campaigns of different duration.

Sir Richard Southwood,

Leading article, page 15

# Bolder consumers deluge ombudsmen with complaints

BY TONY DAWE

MILLIONS of Britons were so satisfied with public service companies and the professions last year that they filed formal complaints. At least 200,000 of the critics were so serious or so badly handled by the companies concerned that they were investigated by a team of ombudsman regulatory bodies and consumer groups.

The number of complaints continues to rise, a survey by *The Times* has discovered. This week Ofcom, which regulates the telephone service, will report 11,334 complaints in the first three months of this year, 23 per cent up on the previous quarter. The Commission for Local Administration in England, which investigates serious complaints against councils, estimates a 29 per cent increase to 11,826 in the 1991-2 financial year. Julian Farrand, the insurance ombudsman, last week announced a "tidal wave" rise of 64 per cent in the complaints he handled.

Sir Gordon Bonn, Director-General of Fair Trading, believes that the swelling

number of complaints reflects growing public awareness of the regulatory bodies as much as a drop in standards. Sir Bryan Carsberg, the head of Ofcom who will succeed him in June, said: "What we are seeing is a rise in customers' expectations of good quality of service, together with the knowledge that there is an

independent regulator to whom they can complain." By delving into annual reports and standards of service documents and by badgering the companies concerned, *The Times* has been able to paint a picture of a complaining Britain. The water industry received 11,380,700 queries about bills in the past financial year. Many were requests for information or about methods of payment, but the industry believes that at least a million were about increasing charges.

BT admitted to 650,000 complaints last year but emphasised that the figures include people criticising general issues such as the company's £90-a-second profits or the colour of its vans, as well as individual complaints. The Post Office recorded 740,000 grumbles about the Royal Mail in the past financial year but was pleased that this was a drop of 90,000 or 11 per cent on the previous year.

George Brown, assistant secretary of the Post Office Users' National Council, said: "An important factor is that the Post Office's customer relations people have become far more efficient in dealing with complaints." The Consumer Association, which is in the middle of a year-long survey on the handling of complaints, believes that a fair response by companies can foster customer loyalty. "Complaints should be a positive force which can be used to sharpen management decisions," Sue Bloomfield, the association's senior policy officer, said.

British Rail, the service which attracts the most vociferous criticism, is the most reluctant to discuss complaints. The least troublesome railways, in Scotland, northeastern and western England, provide figures, but Network South East and London Midland Region say that the information is "commercially sensitive" and cannot be released.

Mike Patterson, secretary of the Central Transport Consultative Committee, which collates rail passengers' complaints, said: "We are continuing to press British Rail to restore the information they used to supply until six years ago. It was cut off because the company said it did not need to collate complaints information as it was of no practical use and proposed to carry out scientific surveys of passengers instead."

"A complaint, however, is the registration of a failure to deliver a service and one way of finding out how the customers feel it is breaking down. A survey only provides a general overview." The last figures given to the committee disclosed 100,000 complaints a year to British Rail but the figure is now estimated conservatively at 125,000. Those who wish to escape the problems which such complaints represent by taking a holiday can do so with more confidence than before. The Association of British Travel Agents reports a substantial drop in complaints to holiday companies and travel agents over the past year because, it says, of tighter controls, including fines for errant companies.

Welcoming the reform on disclosure, the ombudsman, Michael Barnes, said that he had suggested it "because it seemed to me a basic requirement of a good complaints handling system". Other reforms may tackle the lack of compensation for complainants.

## More barristers put in the dock

Frances Gibb begins an examination of attempts to make the Bar's complaints procedure more open to public scrutiny

A RECORD number of complaints against barristers, which increased by almost half over two years, has led to calls for an overhaul of the Bar's machinery for dealing with them and criticism that it is too slow, secretive and fails to give proper redress.

A spokesman for the Bar said: "We don't know why the numbers are going up. It may be partly the publicity surrounding the creation of the legal services ombudsman and that people's expectations of services are rising."

Complaints remained around 210 a year for five years until 1989, jumping to 255 in 1990 and 308 in

1991. This year a higher figure is expected.

The Bar has already taken steps to improve the system. One main criticism was that complaints have been kept in the dark on a barrister's response. Often they have just been told that their complaint had been dismissed.

Now, for complaints made since February 6, they will be shown at least a copy of the barrister's response. The change will not affect earlier complaints because those barristers made their comments on the understanding that they would not be disclosed. A second possible change would speed up the hearings. It can take up to a year for a complaint to be dealt with.

At present two sorts of tribunals handle complaints. One deals with the most serious charges of professional misconduct and can suspend or disbar a barrister to attend the treasurer of his inn for a reprimand, or fine up to £500. A working party is considering an informal and speedy system which would replace the summary tribunals in cases in which facts were not in dispute, providing that the barrister agreed. A panel from the Bar Council's professional conduct committee would expect to deal with a complaint within 60 days.

Welcoming the reform on disclosure, the ombudsman, Michael Barnes, said that he had suggested it "because it seemed to me a basic requirement of a good complaints handling system". Other reforms may tackle the lack of compensation for complainants.

VAUGHAN Bruce, from Ashford, Kent, lodged a complaint about his counsel after being the victim of one of the commonest grievances of the late returned brief (Frances Gibb writes). He was involved in a dispute with his local council over a lease and the papers had been with counsel some months when the hearing date came up, he says.

"Six days before the hearing I was told that the senior barrister who was handling the case could not do it. The papers were transferred to another counsel in chambers, who after agreeing a brief fee of £1,000 then came back to me the next morning demanding an increase of 50 per cent in the fee."

Mr Bruce made a complaint against the first barrister over what he saw as a breach in the cab-rank rule (that a barrister takes each case as it comes along), and against the second for seeking an increased fee and for acting unprofessionally, as he saw it. The first complaint was dismissed and the second has been adjourned pending the outcome of related litigation.

"Why does not the Bar Council require all barristers who fail to comply with the cab-rank rule to pay compensation to the lay client who suffers loss?" he says.

About 70 per cent of complaints against barristers are dismissed or no further action is taken. Of the rest, half are referred to the Bar's disciplinary tribunals and the other half are dealt with informally.

## Fish and chips saved the nation from a battering

BY ROBIN YOUNG

WHAT saved Britain from military defeat, socialist revolution and famine? The answer, according to the author of a new academic work on a neglected aspect of social history, is fish and chips.

John Walton, of the modern social history department at Lancaster University, argues that fish and chips helped the nation to victory in the first world war by providing the poor with cheap, nutritious food in a time of potential shortage.

"There is now serious discussion among British and German historians whether the first world war was won and lost more by foodstuffs than guns," he says.

Shortly after the armistice the trade magazine, *Frier*, claimed that fish and chips "had stood, more than any other trade in the country, between the very poorest of our population and famine and revolt". A similar claim was made later by George Orwell in an essay.

depending on it could not have developed without friends to sell their catch.

The bibliography of fish and chips has in the past been notably short. The late Gerald Priestland, best known as a religious affairs correspondent of the BBC, wrote a well-researched popular history called *Frying Tonight* in 1972, raising an unsolved mystery of Victorian historiography: did Karl Marx eat fish and chips?

Dr Walton is not prepared to comment on the comparative merits of fish and chips in different areas of the country today. That he leaves to Pierre Picton, a former circus clown who has been updating his *Gourmet's Guide to Fish and Chips* for 25 years.

Mr Picton's latest edition (Alan Sutton, £6.95) is cheaper than Dr Walton's (£35) and tells people who find their appetites whetted by Dr Walton's researches where they should go.



Father of the bride: Earl Spencer giving away Diana at her marriage to the Prince of Wales. Below, his son Viscount Althorp

## Auction hammer dented the Spencer family pride

BY ROBIN YOUNG

EARL Spencer, who died yesterday, would probably have remained a largely anonymous figure had it not been for the women in his life. The father of the Princess of Wales will be succeeded by the son from whom he had become estranged.

He first impinged most noticeably on national consciousness in 1981 when, although weak and unsteady on his feet after a brain haemorrhage which he had suffered three years earlier, he summoned up the strength to play his full part in the marriage of his third daughter, Diana, to the last of the day's visitors touring the building.

He was a popular father of the bride. On the day the couple announced their engagement, he surprised cameramen outside Buckingham Palace by photographing them taking pictures of him. He explained that he had photographed every event in his daughter's life and was not going to miss this one. With similar enthusiasm he re-

counted the telephone call in which the prince asked his permission to marry Diana. The prince said: "Can I marry your daughter? I have asked her and, very surprisingly, she said 'Yes'." I told him: "Well done," and I was delighted for the two of them."

When Prince William was born, the earl was said to have got up at dawn with his second wife, Raine, to drive from Althorp, their 16th century home in Northamptonshire, to London. When told of Prince Harry's birth, he shouted the news from a balcony at Althorp to the last of the day's visitors touring the building.

Sadly, for a man so proud of his family and its connections, souring notoriously as he and his second wife, the daughter of the romantic novelist Dame Barbara Cartland, sought increasingly bizarre and ill-advised means of raising money for their estate. Sales of art treasures including silverware, antique fur-

niture, paintings, political papers and estate cottages brought arguments not only with his son, Viscount Althorp, but with the Princess of Wales. Schemes to sell replicas of the princess's wedding dress in Japan, and endorse china dinner services "Royal Spencer" for sale abroad attracted adverse comment in the press and the disapproval of the royal family.

People were reluctant to blame the earl. His father had been a true connoisseur, and a great collector. Johnnie, as the earl was affectionately known, did not know much about art and was not even sure what he liked.

Much of the money raised from apparently ill-advised sales from Althorp (pictures sold by private treaty regularly made much larger sums at auction shortly after) went to invest in real estate in Bognor.

Princess to fly home, page 1  
Obituary, page 17



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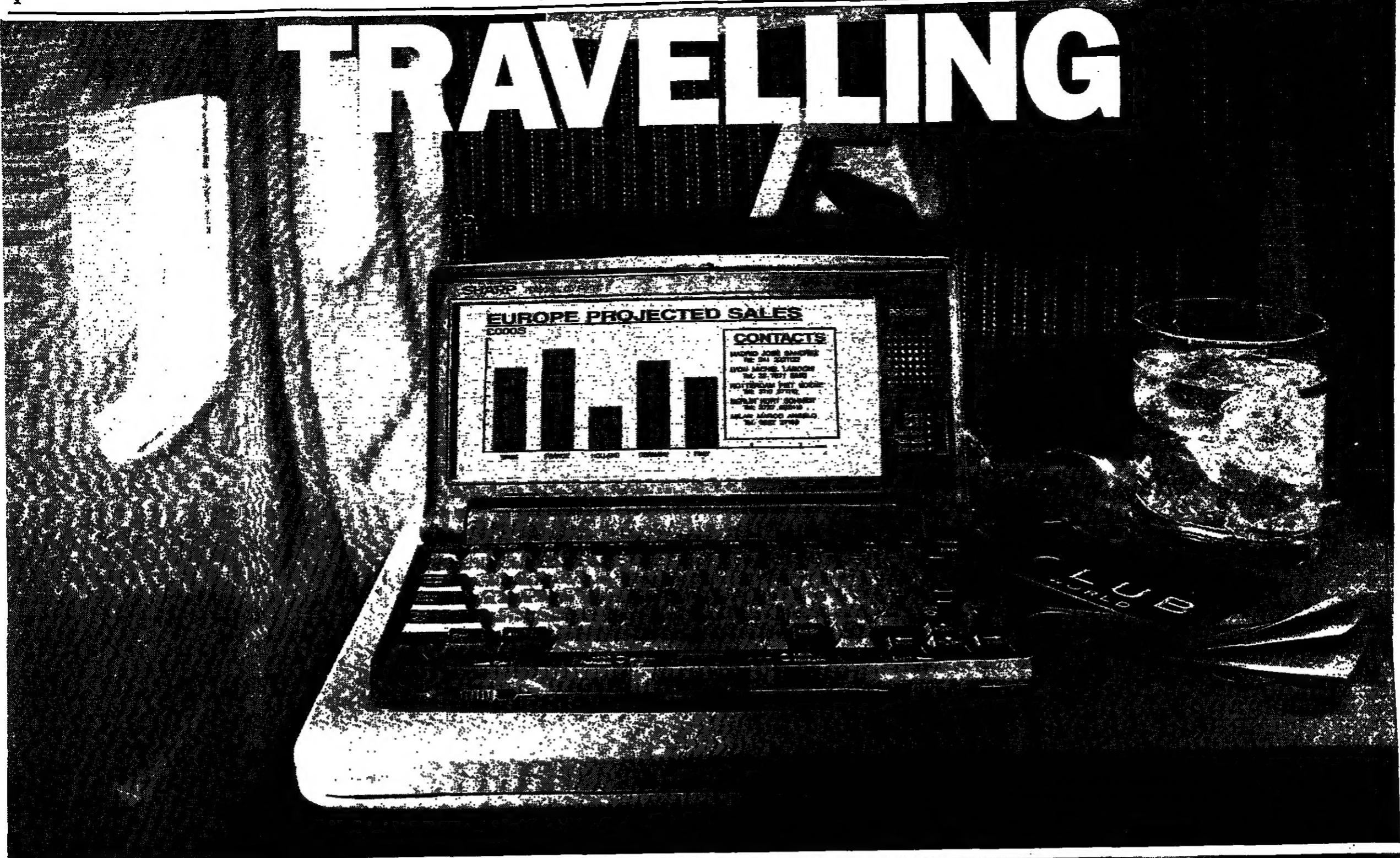
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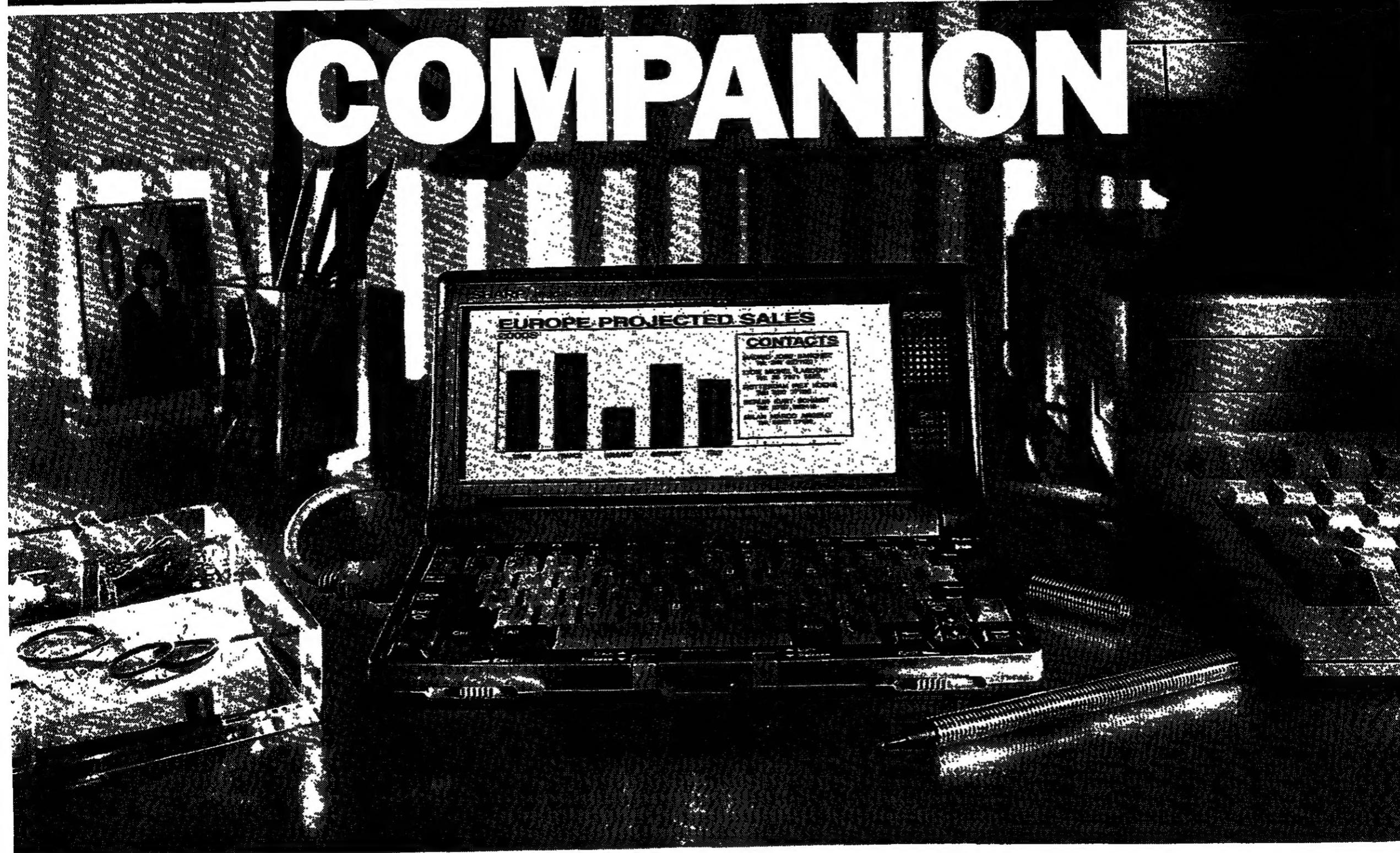
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## London 'will be swamped by refugees in five years'

By DOUGLAS BROOM  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

ENTRAL London boroughs are in danger of being overwhelmed by refugees in the next five years, the leader of Westminster city council said yesterday. David Weeks, one of the most senior conservatives in the capital, said that without additional government help, central London boroughs could not cope with hundreds of asylum seekers and growing homelessness.

"In Westminster we are under pressure anyway in coping with the homeless when before we start to think about helping refugees," Mr Weeks said. "It cannot be sensible for the Home Office to say that these people can come into this country and then for the government to refuse to help to pay for the cost of housing them."

"The situation creates conflict between the needs of people with genuine local connections and those who turn up on our doorstep simply because we are the centre of the capital city of the country where they have been granted asylum."

By Wednesday Westminster expects to have accepted 280 refugee families as offi-

cially homeless this year, almost a third of the total number it will acknowledge a duty to house. Most come from Zaire (74 families) and Angola (27), although council officials report a growing stream of asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa.

Mr Weeks said: "As well as housing, the refugees have a severe impact on our schools, where already four out of ten children do not speak English as their first language. Some of our schools get turned into educational casualty wards."

He was worried that without help to assimilate them, the growing number of asylum-seekers might provoke a similar response to that in Paris, where the far right is on the rise.

In the 12 months ending March 1991, 1,052 of Westminster's 18,000 council flats fell vacant and there were 389 housing association flats to which it had the right to nominate tenants. In spite of having 5,700 people on its waiting list, the council offered 820 of the flats and houses to homeless families.

Hillingdon, the London borough which includes Heathrow airport, faces the problem of unaccompanied child refugees flying in. Since January 1990 the borough has dealt with 73 and has 35 youngsters, aged between nine and 17 years, in its care, comprising 25 Eritreans, four Ugandans, three Ethiopians and three Angolans. One of the borough's community homes has been re-opened to house 15 Eritrean children and is staffed by Eritreans.

Providing homes and care for refugee children will cost the borough an estimated £1 million in the present financial year, the equivalent of £5 a head on the poll tax.

Weeks: boroughs "not able to cope"



Joel, in its



Jump start: Betty Challis and Muriel Lamb climbing into a 1950 competition Skoda yesterday for a driving contest at Brooklands motor museum, Weybridge, Surrey. The event was part of a national rally featuring new and old models of the Czechoslovak-made car

## CAA accused of failing over safety moves

THE Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will face a barrage of criticism today for allegedly dragging its feet over the introduction of new safety measures in passenger aircraft. Survivors from two of Britain's worst air disasters — at Manchester and Kegworth — will tell a meeting of the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety in London that little has been done to implement recommendations laid down up to six years ago.

John Beardmore, who survived the fire on a British Airtours jet at Manchester in 1988 in which 55 people died, said yesterday: "We all feel terribly let down. Promises made soon after the accident that lessons would be learned have not been fulfilled." He will tell the meeting at St

Thomas's hospital that evacuation procedures have barely been improved and that research is dragging on over the fitting of external cameras to show pilots what is happening outside their aircraft.

Donat Desmond, whose wife died in the British Midland crash on the M1, will attack the CAA for allegedly failing to introduce safety recommendations, including the development of a new brace position for passengers to take up in the event of a crash landing and the strengthen-

ing of cabin floors and seats. Mr Desmond told a recent BBC Radio 4 Panorama programme: "If we had had a better degree of safety incorporated in that aircraft, many of those people would have been alive today."

An orthopaedic surgeon, Professor Angus Wallace of Nottingham University, told the programme that rear-facing seats would have helped and that a new and improved brace position could also have saved lives. "We believe that the new brace position should be standard and are dis-

pointed that only a few airlines have taken it up and the CAA is still deciding."

Fielding the criticism will be Dick Duffell, head of the CAA's aircraft systems department. He is expected to reveal that the authority has almost completed its research on a new brace position and will be recommending it to airlines in the summer.

He will say that most of the safety recommendations have already been introduced, but that some, including the brace position, need detailed research work which is still under way.

The CAA said last night that apart from the amount of detailed research necessary, it was limited by European Community regulations in the action it could take.

## Teenagers killed crossing motorway

Two teenagers were killed crossing the M4 near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, late on Saturday night.

Andrew Cooper, aged 17, of Sands, High Wycombe, and an unnamed girl, aged 16, were part of a group of pedestrians walking across the motorway. Police said that they had already crossed one carriageway and were on the other when they were hit.

In a separate incident, Bob Puffett, of Surbiton, south London, died and his son Danny, aged 20, was badly injured when their van veered off the M4 near Newbury, Berkshire, and plunged almost 50ft.

### Council head

Martin Doughty, aged 42, planning chairman of Derbyshire county council, has been elected leader of the Labour-run council, replacing David Bookbinder, who had been leader since 1981.

### Pilot dies

Denis Smith, aged 61, a helicopter pilot from Callow End, near Worcester, died yesterday while having surgery for injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed near Wellington, Shropshire, on Saturday.

### Hosepipe ban

A hosepipe ban is to be introduced in parts of Humbershire today. It will affect Kings upon Hull, Holderness, Beverley and villages in the Boothferry area.

### Library shop

Norfolk county council is to open a mini-library in a village shop in Onwell, near King's Lynn, today. The council will pay the store owner, John Buck, £1,500 a year to run the service.

### Bond winners

Winners in the weekly National Savings Premium Bond prize draw: £100,000, bond number 4KK 306049, from Cornwall, value of holding, £1,250. £50,000, 35TF 041358, Birmingham (£1,962); £25,000, 272K 172383, Grampian (£3,095).

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You'll see (and hear) the cream of Britain's finest young musicians attempting to reach the Finals for Piano, Wind, Brass and Strings.

The Finals will also be televised at the same times next week. And fittingly the Competition, which is sponsored by Lloyds Bank, will be broadcast in Nicam Digital Stereo.

By the end of the series you may well be tempted to arise from your chair and tackle the Flugelhorn singlehandedly.



ARP

New conservation dispute sweeps ravaged estate

## Villagers fight to save oaks

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

VILLAGERS in Somerset are fighting to stop the felling of big areas of old woodland on a Victorian country estate. Orchardleigh Park, near Frome, has already been ravaged by the unframed development of two golf courses.

The classical parkland, surrounding a lake and a moated church where the poet Sir Henry Newbolt is buried, resembles a tank training ground after the bankruptcy of a property company that bought it and planned two hotels. The estate, including a mock-Jacobean man-

sion by Thomas Wyatt, was sold after the death in 1986 of its owner, Arthur Duckworth, a former Conservative MP.

Local anger at the development has recently spread to plans by the owner of the estate's mature woodlands, another developer, Mark Newcombe, to cut down many old oak and ash trees. The woodlands are subject to a tree preservation order made by Mendip district council, but the council has given permission for the felling, which may begin this week.

Sarah Backhouse, from the near by village of Lullington, said:

JULIAN HERBERT



Orchardleigh: once beautiful grounds in ruin

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way to improve today is to be in touch with tomorrow. It's why, in the narrative, letters really will be no sooner said than done.



Cementing a career: Anne Stokes, aged 26, a surveyor with Blue Circle Industries, who was named young career woman of the year yesterday

who is secretary of the Friends of Orchardleigh, said: "The most magical historic parkland in north Somerset has already been devastated by developer greed. Now its beautiful woodlands, which we supposed were protected by the preservation order, are to be ravaged with the permission of the very council that put the order on in the first place."

Mrs Backhouse's group is complaining to the ombudsman, and calling on Mr Newcombe to halt the felling so that the woods can be independently surveyed.

The present felling, about 20 acres of the 50 to be cut, will produce a substantial commercial crop of timber, which has already been sold.

Mr Newcombe, who is based in London, said that the felling was necessary woodland management and that the felled areas were to be replanted with native broad-leaved species.

His view is shared by the council's development control officer, Peter Watson, who recommended the scheme to the planning committee. He said that the woodland had

Greater flooding risk to cities forecast

BY OUR ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WATER drawn from the sea may help the sea to overwhelm coastal cities in the next century, a conference of the Royal Geographical Society in London will be told tomorrow. For the first time American and British scientists have begun the novel biological speculation about what eventually happens to all the huge volumes of water now being pumped out of the ground around the world for domestic use, farming an industry.

It will end up in the sea, where, the scientists believe, it will add significantly to the rise in sea levels already expected because of global warming. Stephen Leatherman, of the University of Maryland's Laboratory for Coastal Research, is engaged with his British colleague Robert Nicholls in trying to calculate how much groundwater will be withdrawn by a growing world population between now and 2100.

Their initial conclusions are that it will add considerably to the 65 centimetres of sea level rise predicted for the end of the next century by the global warming study of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The rise is likely because of the expansion of sea water as it warms, and the melting of glaciers. News of their work will be given by John Topping, president of the Climate Institute in Washington, to a conference at the Royal Geographical Society on cities and climate change.

Delegates at the National

Consumer Congress in Leicestershire yesterday discussed a proposal that lenders be required to pay into a national fund to support counselling organisations, with a contribution made on each individual transaction. The Money Advice Association said that the system of a voluntary levy, based on a percentage of total lending, had failed, largely because the building societies refused to give their support.

The Building Societies Association says that the voluntary levy imposes an unfair burden because building societies account for 84 per cent of lending but only a small percentage of total transactions and a small proportion of bad debt. It says that building societies already provide debt counselling.

Steve Chambers, of the

Money Advice Association, said: "A levy on each transaction would mean that the cost of counselling would be evenly spread. The lending industry must take some responsibility for the problems debt causes. Lenders take no risks. They always have the county courts to fall back on."

Frances Harrison, chairman of the Congress and a policy officer for the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, said that a national scheme would enable independent advice to be given.

## Law urged to set up debt advice

BY DAVID YOUNG

CONSUMER organisations are to demand a law making lenders pay for an independent debt counselling service, after a voluntary levy raised only £500,000 towards the £6 million which is estimated to be needed.

Delegates at the National Consumer Congress in Leicestershire yesterday discussed a proposal that lenders be required to pay into a national fund to support counselling organisations, with a contribution made on each individual transaction. The Money Advice Association said that the system of a voluntary levy, based on a percentage of total lending, had failed, largely because the building societies refused to give their support.

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Mr Topping said that this century an estimated 2,000 cubic kilometres of water have been taken out of the ground around the world. This, added to the oceans, would give more than half a centimetre of extra sea level rise. But the "mining" of groundwater was expected to grow considerably with the rapid growth in human population over the next decades.

Many large cities on or

near the coast are at risk from sea level rise caused by global warming. In addition, certain of them, such as Shanghai and New Orleans, are further threatened by subsidence from groundwater pumping or a reduced flow of sediment that restores delta regions.

"In Shanghai, for example,

local subsidence of 90

centimetres is expected by

2000," Mr Topping said. "If you add that to the 65

centimetres of global warming induced sea level rise, and then put on the additional rise caused by groundwater withdrawal around the world, you have a sea level rise of nearly two metres. And there you have a real problem."

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society, the Climate Institute and the Environmental Change Unit of Oxford University.

THE dangers of taking a shower are not confined, it seems, to staying at Norman Bates's motel in Psycho, the Alfred Hitchcock thriller. The shock of a freezing cold shower can be fatal for those suffering heart conditions, a report on hidden dangers in the home says.

While the dangers of electrical points and fire risks have been highlighted in the past, the shower has escaped censure as a possibly killer. "If a shower suddenly runs cold it can cause someone suffering from coronary heart disease to collapse," according to William Keatinge of Queen Mary and Westfield College hospital in London, one of the British Medical Association's spokesmen on physiological matters.

"Even healthy people have died after immersing themselves in cold water," Professor Keatinge says. "Some may not worry because they've been told that taking a cold shower is a healthy thing to do, but the elderly should realise there is a significant risk." Elderly people might not be able to nip out of a shower in time.

Those who are at greatest risk probably already know

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Those

## Greater flooding risk to cities forecast

By CLIVE ENNIS, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WATER drawn from the sea to help the sea to go where coastal cities in the West Country, a conference in London will be to the Royal Geographical Society. For the first time American and British scientists have begun the novel hypothesis of what eventually happens to the huge volumes of water pumped out of the ground around the world to dry land.

It will end up in the sea, the scientists believe, and significantly to the point because of global warming. Stephen Hawking, of the University of Cambridge's Institute of Mathematics and Physics, has suggested that the British government should calculate how much water it will be using to dry land in a growing world population.

It is a small conclusion, but it adds considerably to the constituents of what has been predicted for the last century or more. The government has

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THE TIMES

## ELECTION 92

MONDAY MARCH 30 1992

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## Conservatives

## Tory leaders go on the offensive to raise tempo

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Conservatives yesterday responded to a barrage of internal criticism of their lacklustre campaign by mounting a fierce defence of their party's record in power and by warning the country of the perils of turning its back on a decade that transformed the face of Britain.

They also sought to stiffen the sinews of Tory activists by declaring that the elation of the campaign was no time for faint-hearts. An anxious electorate was waiting only to be convinced that the Conservatives had the will to dominate the Nineties as they did the Eighties.

Robust and forward-looking interventions by Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine signalled that the Tory high command has acknowledged the force of protests

that flooded in over the weekend about the campaign. The prime minister and Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, will try to keep the momentum going today as they add a more positive and visionary dimension to the campaign and extol the achievements of the Thatcher era.

At a meeting in Leicester, Mr Clarke, one of the A-team of senior ministers at the heart of the campaign, sought to dispel the impression that the outcome of the election would make little difference. The country's future was not a "toy" for anyone to play with, he said. It depended on the stewardship of a government and a prime minister with clear principles, direction and vision.

For almost the first time in the campaign, a senior minister offered an unapologetic defence of the past 13 years, saying that the Tories had done nothing less than "change the entire philosophy of government".

"We turned this island into an oasis of enterprise, production and investment. We have created an economic base which will enable us to spring out of the recession ahead of the pack."

A similarly bullish message was conveyed by Mr Heseltine at the same meeting. Great strides had been made at home and abroad since

1979, he said. Despite the recession, almost 500,000 more people were in work than 13 years ago and there were 400,000 more firms.

Manufactured exports had grown at a faster rate than those of Germany, France, Japan and America and productivity was at a record high.

Britain is once again respected abroad. We are listened to and trusted. Not by luck or by chance, but because of our achievements and efforts."

"The change of tempo came after Mr Patten chaired a council of war at Tory Central Office against the backdrop of a flurry of criticism by Tories seeking re-election and former ministers standing down from the Commons."

One of the sharpest attacks came from Cedric Parkinson, the former Conservative chairman, who said that the party would have to improve its campaign or face a hung parliament.

David Evans, who is defending Welwyn and Hatfield, blamed Central Office for a campaign widely attacked as too negative and too parochial.

Influential Tories close to the campaign conceded yesterday that the first two weeks had gone badly.

One commented: "The great tragedy of the campaign is that there has been scarcely a day on which the

Tories have been able to set the agenda. So far their plans, some of which are good and some of which are not so good, simply have not been followed through."

Shaun Woodward, the party's publicity chief, was being blamed for the Tories' failure to seize the initiative and there were predictions that he would play a less influential role.

The inexperience of Mr Woodward, aged 33, and many of his Central Office team was said to be a handicap in such a closely fought election. Sources were also forecasting that the so-called "Val Doonican" sessions, in which Mr Major answers questions perched on a bar stool, would quietly drop.

The new accent on the strength of the Tory record and the party's capacity to confront challenges ahead should go some way to stemming the tide of criticism.

Mr Clarke said: "We must keep the courage of our convictions. We must take pride in our achievements. We must make clear the strength of our vision for the future."

"We do have the will to govern for the best of all reasons: to build on the success of the past decade and to make an even better country with a higher quality of life for the next generation."

## Liberal Democrats

## Ashdown takes message across the Channel

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown took his election campaign to the French channel port of Boulogne yesterday to show up the reluctance of the Conservative and Labour parties to debate Britain's future in Europe.

Visibly buoyed up by the party's modest rise in the weekend's opinion polls, making the Liberal Democrats the only beneficiaries of the War of Jennifer's Ear, Mr Ashdown made clear that the agenda for Britain's sixth European Community would form part of the negotiations in a hung parliament.

He said Liberal Democrat support for a minority Labour or Conservative government would be conditional on dropping the opt-out clause on a single currency negotiated by John Major in the Maastricht Treaty. The party would also demand a revision of Britain's decision not to join the social chapter of the treaty.

Surrounded by fellow European Liberal and Radical party politicians, he said that for Labour and the Tories the word Europe "had been forgotten" during the campaign.

"These issues should be central to this election campaign," he said. "But the other parties will do whatever they want."

While the Liberal Democrat support dropped as low as 14 per cent in one nationwide poll last week,

er two parties are hiding from Europe in order to hide their own divisions and splits."

When challenged by journalists on staging an election "stunt" by his day trip to France, Mr Ashdown retorted that the other parties were guilty of such tactics by refusing to debate the future of Europe during the campaign.

The warmth of the welcome from his continental colleagues, together with the latest polls, appears to have transformed the tense, bairn-worn campaigner of last Friday into a more confident, relaxed leader who has revived his habit of gazing at some distant, but clear horizon.

From the weekend polls the party seems to have attracted support from potential Labour and Tory voters who have been turned off by last week's bickering over the emotive health broadcast.

Although Mr Ashdown's strategy of keeping aloof from the furor led to less media coverage in the latter part of last week, it has paid off by sweeping up some disenchanted voters from the other two parties.

While the Liberal Democrat support dropped as low as 14 per cent in one nationwide poll last week,

the party leadership will argue over the next week that neither the Tories nor Labour deserve a majority. Mr Ashdown told journalists on the trip back to Dover: "Britain governed by Tory or Labour with unfettered powers to govern this country would be a disaster."

and even down to 7 per cent in Scotland, the latest surveys paint a far more optimistic picture. Two polls by ICM and Mori put the Liberal Democrats at 20 per cent, while NOP for *The Mail on Sunday* gave them 18 per cent and NOP's poll in *The Independent on Sunday* gave them 16 per cent.

The party's strategists last night put the finishing touches to their plans for attacking the "wasted votes syndrome", the focus for the remaining 10 days of the campaign.

The "Winning Vote" strategy will be aimed at persuading voters of the Liberal Democrats' ability to win in the 250 seats, mostly Tory-held, where the Alliance came second in 1987. The polls repeatedly suggest that many voters who support the party's policies, particularly on education, would nevertheless vote Conservative or Labour because they did not believe the Liberal Democrats could win.

The party leadership will

argue over the next week that neither the Tories nor Labour deserve a majority. Mr Ashdown told journalists on the trip back to Dover: "Britain governed by Tory or Labour with unfettered powers to govern this country would be a disaster."

Listening in: Neil Kinnock is interviewed for the British Forces Broadcasting Service. He earlier made public sector pay pledges on the *Walden* programme

## Labour's campaign strategy

## Health seen as a potential winner despite dogfight

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH is to feature prominently in the remainder of Labour's general election campaign, including one of its last three party broadcasts.

But as the campaign enters its last full week, Labour intends today to take the calculated risk of bringing its shadow budget back into public focus by hammering home its message that eight out of ten families would be better off under Labour.

The party leadership will argue over the next week that neither the Tories nor Labour deserve a majority. Mr Ashdown told journalists on the trip back to Dover: "Britain governed by Tory or Labour with unfettered powers to govern this country would be a disaster."

In a further effort to keep the electoral spotlight on its stronger policy suits, Labour is expected to turn to education tomorrow, saying out

it will spend the extra £500 million allocated by John Smith in the shadow

budget at the start of the campaign.

Senior party sources yesterday denied a report that the leadership had decided to scrap a second health broadcast after the future caused by last week's story of five-year-old Jennifer Bennett.

They said it had never been intended to devote another broadcast exclusively to health.

"We believe we have

brought health back to the forefront of this campaign," a senior source said. "It will be

featured heavily in our future campaigning and at least one of the broadcasts. But there are other issues that we need to concentrate those

valuable slots upon."

It was predicted that, although Labour and the Tories might have suffered slightly because of the dogfight over the broadcast, Labour would gain in the week ahead. "When health is being discussed, it tends to benefit us," one source said.

One of the remaining

broadcasts will focus on education. Tomorrow Jack Straw, shadow education secretary, will set out plans to repair old school buildings, increase provision for books, expand nursery education and keep classes below a maximum of 40 children.

Neil Kinnock and Mr

Straw will also speak of the need to improve the quality of teaching. Mr Smith and Mr

Kinnock will stress today how their budget plans will benefit the average families.

The decision to turn the spotlight on their budget by highlighting their "budget for families" suggests confidence that they may have weathered the Conservatives' tax assault.

Labour sources have been

boasted by the internal criticism of the Tory campaign. A source said: "The Tories clearly don't think they can

win this election by stressing

their own policies — other

wise they would have done

that already. Now if they con-

tinued going for us on tax,

defence, on Kinnock they are

going to come in for further

criticism about negative

campaigning."

Brian Gould, shadow envi-

ronment secretary and one of

the campaign chiefs, con-

firmed last night that health

would be an important issue

for Labour right up to April 9.

"It will feature extremely

strongly. We would be foolish

in the extreme if we were to

contemplate moving away

from an agenda that is of

such great importance to the

lives of thousands of people

and on which they clearly

demonstrate their trust in

Labour."

## Smith puts VAT back on agenda

By JILL SHERMAN

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday renewed its attack on the Conservatives' record on VAT, claiming that the party could not be trusted over its promises not to widen or to raise VAT.

John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, at a press conference, compared the words of John Major last week with those used by Sir Geoffrey Howe in April 1979, weeks before VAT rose from 8 per cent to 15 per cent.

Last week John Major said:

"We have no plans and no need to extend the scope of VAT."

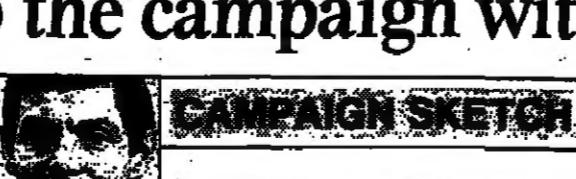
Eleven years ago, Sir Geoffrey said: "We have absolutely no need to extend the scope of VAT."

Mr Smith said: "Since 1979 the rate of VAT has more than doubled to 17.5 per cent and its scope has already been significantly extended.

These are the facts which expose the Tories' false assurances about VAT." If the Tories were re-elected, VAT could be raised to 22 per cent or applied more widely, he said.

Meanwhile, Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, disputed Neil Kinnock's claim that tax rates had no effect on how hard people worked. "Tell that to the people in eastern Europe who kept only a fraction of what they earned... tell that to the people taxed at 83 per cent under the last Labour government who fled Britain in Labour's brain drain."

## Spice up the campaign with dial-an-argument



In this election, some ministers and shadow spokesmen are hardly canvassing at all.

Francis Maude, Tory candidate for North Warwickshire, still is. On Saturday this column described his chilly Friday afternoon in a West Midlands village. I mentioned his encounter with a pensioner who had enjoyed a Maude vs Clare Short scrap on the radio but I omitted the pensioner's final question, as Mr Maude turned to go: "Is Neil with you?"

"Neil who?" asked Maude.

"Neil Kinnock. Is he outside?"

At first Maude was baffled, but then we realised the explanation. This voter's only experience of modern politics was of candidates from opposing parties having rows with each other on radio and television. The

broadcasting rules of "balance" dictate that you almost never get more than about 30 seconds from one party's representative without an immediate rejoinder of similar length from one, or two, of his rivals. Mr Maude's constituent had now had a full four minutes of this candidate. Maude was about to depart. Something was obviously missing. He had assumed that in real life politicians travel around in pairs or trios, yelling at each other, just like on TV.

Well why not? Could this be the way to breathe new life into an old tradition? Could the discerning voter not demand that, rather than watch edited exchanges on TV, candidates bring the real thing to his doorstep? I have in mind that constituency campaigns might include a travelling roadshow featuring all three (or more) candidates, the entire trio arriving at your door to have an argument for you there and then, on demand.

For the national campaign, the party leaders should pool transport and occupy a specially constructed triple decker bus, one deck to each entourage. Every half hour the three men would join each other on the platform and have a blazing argument for the cameras and journalists. Edwina Currie and Peter Snape could follow behind in a taxi, pouring drinks on each other's heads.

Where the bus actually went, or whether it moved at all, would be, I suggest, a matter of little importance.

Edwina Currie pouring orange juice on Peter Snape's head, at the flick of a switch.

Edwina Currie and Peter Snape arguing about what to do with the bus. The NHS, defence, single mums

and the candidates would argue about VAT. You

Lib Dems' doggedness starts to pay off as poll support rises and political broadcast outshines its rivals

## Ashdown must tread a perilous path

BY IVOR CREWE

PADDY Ashdown's energetic campaigning, especially his risky pledge to raise income tax to fund education, appears to have paid off. Liberal Democrat support has increased from an average of 15 per cent in the Sunday newspaper polls a fortnight ago to 16.6 per cent last weekend and to 18.2 per cent yesterday.

The significance of this mini surge should not be exaggerated. Support for the Liberal Democrats is still five per cent down on the Alliance's vote in 1987. On the assumption of a uniform national swing they stand to lose five seats to Labour. Most Liberal Democrat MPs are elected on big personal votes which cushions them from unfavourable national swings and the diminution of that swing has probably saved their skins.

Will the Liberal Democrats advance or retreat in the remaining ten days of the campaign? Since it started, Liberal Democrats have won over two Conservatives for every Labour voter and since the 1987 election the Liberal Democrats have made net losses to the Labour party but net gains from the Tories. Whatever the views of Liberal Democrat MPs, their voters are closer in their views and electoral history to the Tories than to Labour. That could pose Mr Ashdown a problem.

Despite the softness of their vote, Liberal Democrat leaders have two grounds for optimism. The first is the pattern of their advance in the polls. In February 1974, 1979 and 1983 support for the Centre fell back in the opening days of the campaign, held steady in the second and third week, and only picked up in the final week. Even in 1987, when disagreements between David Owen and David Steel crippled the Alliance's campaign, it picked up tactical voters in the final three days. This time the Liberal Democrats were barely squeezed in

the opening week and have started to climb at an earlier point than before.

Secondly, tactical voting may provide a bigger boost than usual. Normally it loses the Centre more votes than it gains. For tactical voting to work the Centre must squeeze the Labour vote in Tory seats and benefit from an anti-Tory swing. In the past three elections it has done the former but not the latter, and thus picked up next to no seats (except in Scotland, where there was a strong swing against the Tories).

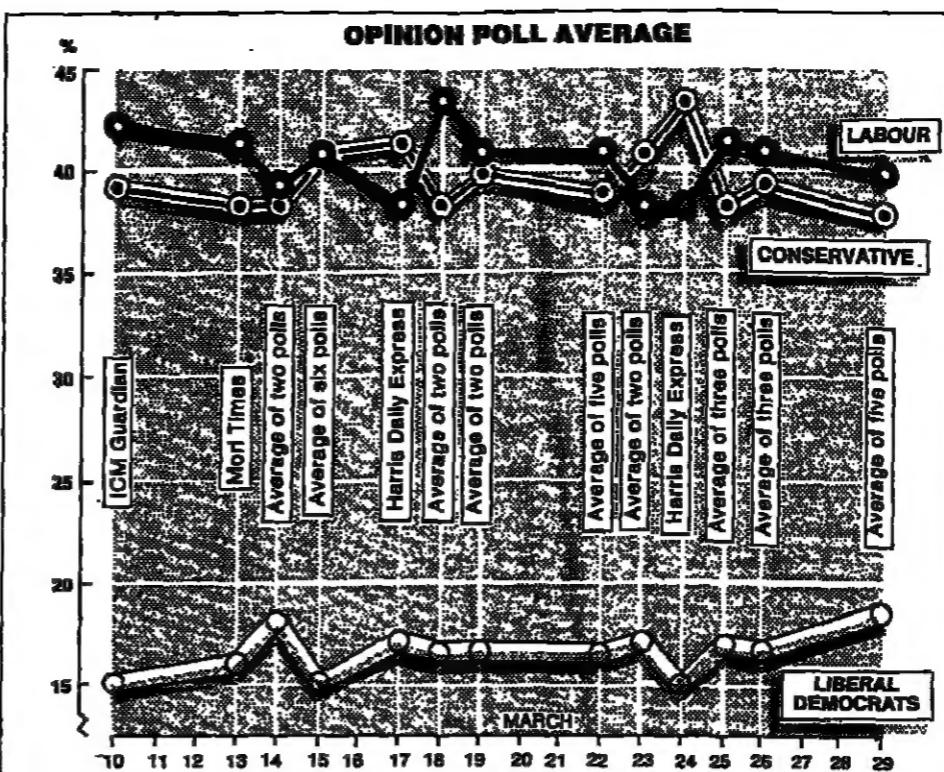
This time the regional pattern of tactical voting may work to the Liberal Democrats' benefit. Each of the three Mori/Times polls in this campaign have asked respondents how they would vote if they "thought that the Liberal

Democrats were likely to win in this constituency?" The proportion answering Liberal Democrat was 35 per cent in weeks one and two and 41 per cent last week — more than double the Liberal Democrats' actual support.

Answers to such a hypothetical question must be treated with considerable caution: many voters are unaware or misinformed of the tactical situation in their constituency. But it is significant that willingness to switch from Tory to Liberal Democrat is strongest in the South where the recession is severest and where most of the Lib Dems target seats lie. A regional analysis of the BBC's poll of polls confirms that the Tory vote has fallen further (by 8 per cent) and the Liberal Democrat vote has held up best (only 4 per cent down) in the South. This is the one region where, despite the drop in its vote since 1987, the Liberal Democrats are benefiting from a net swing from the Tories.

Not surprisingly, Liberal Democrats plan to campaign relentlessly for tactical voting. But such a strategy presents them with an almost insoluble dilemma. To win over Tories it must convince them that it will not open the door of No 10 to Neil Kinnock; the Mori/Sunday Times poll found existing Liberal Democrats split three to two in favour of a coalition with the Tories rather than with Labour. But to squeeze the Labour vote as effectively as in 1987 the Liberal Democrats must convince Labour sympathisers that they will not maintain John Major in office. With the imminent prospect of a hung parliament Mr Ashdown will increasingly find himself in the spotlight in the coming week. He will be presented with an exceptional opportunity to win votes where they really count — but also to lose them.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at Essex University.



## People-meter scores badly for Major

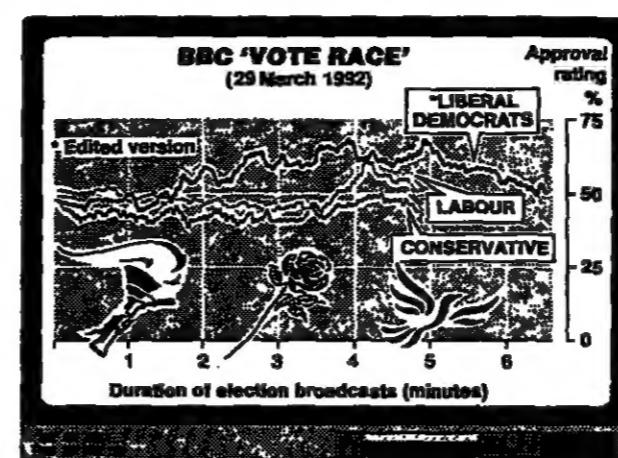
BY ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats' party political broadcast, produced on a shoestring compared with those of the two major parties, has struck a far more positive chord with the public.

Using the "people-metering" technique BBC Television's *'Vote Race'* programme traced the second-by-second reactions of 50 viewers' representative of the electorate as the election broadcasts were shown, monitoring the individual responses of party supporters and floating voters who turned a dial as they watched.

The Liberal Democrat broadcast, in which Paddy Ashdown underlined his party's willingness to increase income tax by a penny to pay for better education, produced a plus rating of 7 points above neutral.

Labour's controversial Jennifer Bennett film earned a negative average rating of minus 1 and the Tories' broadcast attacking Labour's spending plans on the basis that they would cost every



taxpayer £1,250 a year was given the thumbs down with an average rating of minus 6. In an election in which television is playing a large part, such reactions could be crucial.

The people-metering reaction was even throughout the Labour health service PEB until Neil Kinnock spoke for a minute at the end of the broadcast to promise a modernised health service and the "choice between fear and hope", at which point it

soared. The Tony broadcast produced no peaks and troughs but a steadily negative response. The Liberal Democrats' rather longer PEB gained support steadily for the first five minutes, peaking with Mr Ashdown's promise of extra tax for better education, before dropping off over the last two minutes.

The people-metering technique, developed in the United States by Richard Wirthlin, was first used to test Ronald Reagan's speeches.

All were people-metered before they were made, allowing him and his advisers to test out the "power phrases" and the "emotive tags" and to find out what he could say to attract floating voters without alienating his own strong supporters. The Conservatives were making use of the idea until a year ago when they dropped it in economy cuts pushed through by Chris Patten, the party chairman.

Several recent speeches and interviews by leading performers in the election have been people-metered and the Liberal Democrat broadcast comes out with the best plus rating yet. A speech by Bryan Gould on the Tory betrayal of the C2s earned a rating of plus 2 and Neil Kinnock's Glasgow rally speech on Friday night on the NHS scored plus 1.

Mr Major's interview with Jeremy Paxman on *Newsnight* earned a neutral rating as did a rally speech by Paddy Ashdown attacking the two major parties for not discussing the economy properly. Mr Major's interview with Robin Day scored only minus 3.

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THE TIMES MONDAY MARCH 30 1992

## Labour

## Kinnock vows help on public-sector pay

By JILL SHERMAN POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS THE economy again became the focus of the election campaign, Neil Kinnock pledged yesterday that pay rises for public servants under a Labour government would keep pace with those in the private sector.

John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, was quick to clarify that that would be done only if it was affordable and fell within budgetary limits, while Michael Howard, employment secretary, claimed Mr Kinnock had got into "a pickle over public-sector pay".

Mr Kinnock's promise, on London Weekend's *Walden* programme, appeared to go further than the Labour manifesto, which says Labour would "halt the deterioration which has taken place in the pay and conditions of many public-sector workers". Mr Kinnock said that Labour would ensure that public-sector pay was not left behind by rises in the private sector.

To stop the gap widening is the sensible thing to do. I would like to say we are going to close the gap but we are too

prudent, too realistic and honest to promise that... To stop the gap widening is necessary for the quality of services, the supply of essential people and the morale which is absolutely fundamental to the maintenance of good-quality services."

Mr Smith later stepped in to stem speculation that a Labour government would be unable to stop public-sector pay spiralling out of control. He insisted that any pay policy would have to operate within budgetary constraints. "We would set public-sector pay within clearly defined budgetary limits," he said.

He appeared to be at odds with Mr Kinnock when he added: "There is a clear difference between halting deterioration and matching pay increases." Labour sources said pointed out later that the big rises in public-sector pay that occurred in the Seventies were unlikely given the new constraints of the exchange rate mechanism.

Mr Howard was quick to exploit the confusion. Mr Kinnock dare not disappoint the public-sector unions, he said. "Labour would let their pay demands punch a huge hole in our public finances."

Pressed on *Walden* to say how he would stop a public sector-pay explosion if rises were pegged to those in the private sector, Mr Kinnock denied he would attempt to control the level of private-sector pay by fiat or pass any law to control percentage rises. "There is no feasible threat between Whitehall and the companies in Britain that can be brought in the event of the government failing to control private-sector pay awards are running out of line."

Under a Labour government there would be a national economic assessment which would bring together the various negotiating parties and the economic interests, he said. The government would give them the picture of the economy over the next year and they would peg pay

rises accordingly. It would not be a return to the days of tea and sandwiches or even "carbonated water and water biscuits", Mr Kinnock said. "We will spell out the truth. They will spell out the truth and we will work together on the basis of this realism."

He said there would be a better chance for wages to rise for all workers as the economy moved out of recession and productivity rose. And he insisted that a Labour government would stick to budgetary parameters it had set itself. "We have made it clear we are not going to spend more than we can afford. We have got to work our way out of the recession with the tools we have honed and sharpened."

Later Mr Kinnock denied his party's tax pledges would demotivate workers. "People strive, thank God they strive, but the level of taxation does not affect it. Of course there are penal levels of taxation, but we will not impose these for any level of income."

He said the 50 per cent tax rate would affect a minority of people, most of whom were highly motivated.



Baby talk: Harriet Harman with Sam Cinamon, aged 21 weeks, at the London launch of Labour's policy proposals for the under-fives

## Ashdown softens PR terms for power-sharing deal

By NICHOLAS WOOD

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, began to back down yesterday on his previous hard line on proportional representation in the event of a hung parliament.

He said in an interview on *Frost on Sunday* on TV-am that it would be "appropriate" to include legislation in

the first session of a new parliament, which would last 18 months. But he did not press his threat to vote down the first Queen's Speech of a minority government unless it included a bill for proportional representation.

Some of his senior colleagues went further in preparing the ground for an intensive period of horse-trading if trends in current

opinion surveys are repeated on polling day and the election ends inconclusively.

Charles Kennedy, the party's president, and Sir David Steel, its foreign affairs spokesman, said it would open negotiations with a potential partner in return for a commitment that the next election would be held under PR.

Sir David, a self-styled

"gradualist" on voting reform, said that his pre-condition for talks about the four-year programme of a coalition government was "a commitment at least to consider the PR question as open."

Mr Kennedy suggested that the Democrats would be prepared to wait until towards the end of a parliament for PR to become law.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, has promised in his election manifesto to enhance the authority of the Plant enquiry into voting systems. The unspoken message there is that Labour could bring other parties into a type of constitutional convention along the lines of that which recommended PR for Scotland and which Labour has accepted.



Smith clarified leader's pledges on wage parity

MEDIAWATCH by Brian MacArthur

## Home truths hit a raw nerve

John Major minds what the papers say much more than any previous prime minister, according to *The Sunday Times Magazine* yesterday. He waits up at night for the early editions, is upset most by the papers that ought to be "inside", but is especially irritated by the small group at *The Sunday Telegraph* that still idolises Margaret Thatcher.

As editors peppered their leading articles with summonses to Mrs Thatcher and Michael Heseltine at the weekend, breakfast with the Majors must have been a pretty fraught affair. Few papers are more "inside" than the *Daily Mail*. Yet on Saturday the *Mail* quoted admiringly a statement from Mrs Thatcher that the real issues were the economy, defence and Europe. "The lady, God bless her, has thrown a typically well-directed bucket of cold water over this yapping, squeaking, political dogfight," it declared. Mr Major and his government had 11 days left to "raise their game". Otherwise they deserved to lose.

A similar theme was developed in *The Times* which thundered that Mr Major spoke too much like a cautious Treasury apologist. "The gulf between the leader's spokesman of most members of the cabinet and the Archie Rice performances of Michael Heseltine has become embarrassing... Mr Major has now to find the will to win. He can only find it from within himself."

That comparison of Mr Major with Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heseltine was made again yesterday. On the front page of *The Sunday Times*, Mrs Thatcher was quoted, complaining the Tory campaign did not have "enough oomph, enough whizz, enough steam" while Andrew Neil, the editor, described Mr Major's progress round Britain as having all the force and direction of the "Marie Celeste". What the Tory campaign needed, Mr Neil said, was a new campaign supremo — Michael Heseltine. Sir Peregrine

Worsthorne, until recently editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, was not only disenchanted with Mr Major, he was even asking whether it really mattered who was elected. At least Messrs Kinnock, Hattersley and Smith were all recognisable British types, he argued, but the Conservatives represented an "alien world which was not recognisably British at all and scarcely even human". What really worried him was that the Tory party today represented the interests of the most internationalised sections of society on whom not much reliance could be placed to conserve the nation's character.

What also irritated several commentators was the failure of the team surrounding Mr Major — described as "baked bean salesmen" by *The Mail on Sunday* — to project his true character. Their over-marketing of Mr Major had undermined his fair-mindedness and made him look inept when he pretended to be a suburban Genghis Khan, the *Observer* said.

The real John Major did however shine through the profile in *The Sunday Times Magazine*, particularly in one revealing statement. "I still don't like the envy I see in society and I don't like the fear that many people face, and I think we can do something about it," Mr Major told Barbara Amiel. "I hate prejudice. And I loathe snobbery. I particularly hate prejudice based on colour or religion, of which there is still, alas, too much in our society."

The real Neil Kinnock also shone through an interview with Michael Ignatieff of *The Observer* in which Mr Kinnock admitted to an occasional twinge of class solidarity towards the "Tory boy from Brixton". "At the last Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph, Kinnock pulled Major's sleeve just in time to prevent him laying his wreath at the wrong moment," Ignatieff wrote. "Afterwards, Major was generous with thanks, and Kinnock observed: 'Neither of us were born to this, were we?'

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## Constituency profile

# High Tory prefers arguing on doorstep to baby-kissing

By KATE MUIR

THE main advantage of a safe seat is that it loosens the tongue. In an election campaign which consists of politicians checking leaks or their reflections in camera lens, Nicholas Budgen, the sitting Tory candidate for Wolverhampton South West, is refreshingly troublesome.

Infamous for voting against his party at the slightest mention of European monetary union, and for his hard line on immigration, Mr Budgen is more of an arguer than a baby-kisser on the doorstep. His constituents are used to that for until 1974, this seat was held by Enoch Powell.

"I do argue for strict controls on immigration, but that's as much for the immigrants already here as the indigenous population," Mr Budgen says. "I just don't think arranged marriages should be a way into the country for untrained Pun-

jab peasants. I'm not a frightened Liberal. As soon as you talk about immigration you're bound to be called racist, but that's the necessary exaggeration of politics."

The constituency is at least one-fifth Asian, and Dr Simon Murphy for Labour, and Colin Hallmark, the Liberal Democrat, might expect such statements to significantly reduce the 10,318 Tory majority. Not so. The Grangeley ward, which is 57 per cent Asian, has returned John Mellor, a Tory councillor.

Mr Mellor is also the chairman of the constituency association and he says: "A lot of the Asian population is on our side. They have got the same interests as us — they've

got their own businesses, their own homes, and family life and religion are very important to them, and those are Conservative values."

In the street, an elderly Sikh man wards off Mr Budgen with growls of "Labour". Unflustered, the politician rolls on: "Hello madam. How are you?" The woman grunts. "Well done!" says Mr Budgen. At the shopping parade, a man in a car spots the Conservative more by his 1930s-cut green tweed suit with turn-ups and a waistcoat than by the blue rose.

"How's the war going?" he shouts. This is language Mr Budgen understands. He bares his Staffordshire Regiment tie at the supporter and says: "I'm just a junior subaltern away from the front. All I know is what's in the papers." The man nods. "Well, it's Neil's birthday today, and I hope it rains." He drives off.

Mr Budgen says support is "robust" in this area, where the mock-Georgian doors and carriage lamps on former council houses "signify as much as a party poster".

Better-off pensioners, who are mostly insulated from the recession, have rather arcane obsessions. What is Nick going to do to prevent the Staffordshire Regiment amalgamating with the Cheshire? Answer: wear his supporters' tie. How does he stand on Scottish independence? Answer: it needs a good debate.

Despite the polls showing a swing to Labour in the South-

East, Mr Budgen finds Wolverhampton's middle class are less badly affected. Every shopkeeper says business is bad, but there is still business to be had. Unemployment is about 10 per cent.

Of course, Mr Budgen, a confirmed and lonely monetarist, blamed it all on the European exchange rate mechanism and "servile shadowing" of the mark. During the recent Budget debate he was politely asked to keep his views to himself for the sake of party unity.

He echoes Mrs Thatcher's feelings that the Conservatives are avoiding "the two great issues" of Europe and the economy and means that campaigning has become intellectually flabby and far too presidential. Mr Budgen says that this election is showing how relatively unimportant politics is to people, but as a high Tory he considers that a sensible proposition.

One of his supporters, Peter Wesson from Tattenhall, a ritzy suburb which Mr Powell once described as a balcony looking down on Wolverhampton, thinks the Tory campaign lacks spark.

Mr Wesson is delighted that there will still be some "good old fashioned public meetings, particularly next Friday's with Enoch. You see, people here are prepared to accept a degree of independent thinking," he says, nodding at Mr Budgen.

A sulphurous grin crosses the Tory candidate's face, and he lets loose some unpublishable independent thinking. "It's not that I believe my prejudices are the objective truth, but they should at least be thrown in the melting pot."



Candid views: "It's not that I believe my prejudices are the objective truth"

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## Britain's barometer shows stormy campaign ahead

By JOHN YOUNG

GRAVESEND, a chunk of north Kent a few miles down the Thames from the London conurbation, is the most accurate political barometer in Britain: in every general election since 1923, with the solitary exception of 1951, it has voted in the candidate of the winning party nationally. As Gravesend goes, so does Britain.

Confirmation that next week's result is likely to be a close call was provided by a poll in the constituency which showed the Labour and Conservative candidates level on 44 per cent, with the Liberal Democrat on 11 per cent.

Gravesend comprises the towns of Gravesend and Northfleet and a scattering of well-to-do villages. The population includes white-collar commuters and a sizeable Sikh community, which became established during the 1960s. Gravesend has come down in the world since its heyday as the principal ferry port for travellers to and from London, and its later brief spell as a fashionable watering place, but is still a base for the Port of London's health, customs and pilot services.

The area is scarred by chalk pits supplying a large cement works, but much of the paper industry, which used to be the town's biggest employer, has fallen victim to foreign competition, and unemployment is running at over 10 per cent.

The Labour candidate, Graham Green, is a solicitor, aged 38, who was born and bred locally. He sees the recession as the main issue, and one which has affected the

tunnel rail link, and a planned relief road for the Medway towns.

Jacques Arnold, a former banker, aged 44, who won the seat for the Conservatives in 1987, admits that the recession has hit hard. "We did quite well during most of the Eighties, but we've had a pretty rough time in the last two years, and that has shaken confidence in Conservative policies."

In the Conservatives' favour are the "excellent" local schools, three of which have recently opened by large parental majorities to become grant-maintained, he says. He accuses Labour of scaremongering on the health issue and points out that a large new district hospital is planned for the area within the next few years.



Close call: Jacques Arnold says that the past two years have shaken confidence in Tory policies

## Recession rules in Labour stronghold

By RONALD FAUX

HIGH unemployment has had a curious impact on Kirkby, Merseyside. Every one travels by taxi. A line of black cabs stretches more than 400 yards from the civic centre, a rank of rumbling diesel shunting forward in perpetual motion to pick up passengers.

A housewife unload a supermarket trolley into a cab boot and explains that her car went back to the garage when her husband lost his job. She finds the deregulated bus service between her home and Kirkby centre unreliable, the fare is 80p and there is a wrestling match with the shopping. A taxi door-to-door costs £1 and takes half the time.

The driver adds his side to the economic argument. So many men have invested redundancy money in cabs that 300 taxis operate in the borough, plus a host of minibuses that are even cheaper. Driving is the only skill many workers can employ, so competition is fierce and fares are rock bottom.

Kirkby lies on the northern fringe of Liverpool, part of the Knowsley North constituency where George Howarth has little difficulty defending a Labour majority of 21,098.

Here is an unassailable base of socialism, where general elections are a rubber stamp and all illus are blamed on the government.

Kirkby is a mid-Sixties creation of fast-build concrete and brick architecture that looks neat on a drawing board but which quickly takes on an air of dereliction when

1987 general election result: G E Howarth (Lab) 27,454; R Cooper (Lib/All) 6,356; R C Brown (C) 4,922; D Hillsorth (Red Front) 538. Lab maj: 21,098.

neglect or vandals make their mark.

The job centre and social security department are in a tall office block known locally as "The House of Plenty". The town is into its second recession, having never escaped the first. Since the mid-1980s, more than 3,000 manufacturing jobs have gone and male unemployment has reached 35 per cent, 10 per cent higher than the Merseyside average.

When the planners created Kirkby to provide homes and jobs for Liverpool's inner-city overspill, Bird's Eye, Massy Ferguson and Bendix were among the companies that moved in and generated 34,000 jobs. They have since moved away and the area provides 9,000 jobs few more than before Kirkby appeared on the map.

Mr Howarth believes that support for Labour will increase even beyond the 69.9 per cent of 1987, because voters believe that the party has a good chance of forming the next government. Emigration from Kirkby and Knowsley is high and he suspects that others have disappeared from the electoral roll since the community charge was introduced, but that such losses will not prevent Kirkby from remaining an impregnable Labour stronghold.

the BBC2 sound-bite, not the Dollis Hill school hall. Had a pupil asked if he liked chocolate, Mr Livingstone would have launched into a speech about how West African cocoa farmers were exploited by Western imperialists, to sate bourgeois palates.

Like Disraeli before him, Mr Livingstone still dreams that the time will come when the people will hear him. In the meantime he will continue practising, in whichever hall is available and to whoever is willing to listen, however young they might be. Politics has become so dull, we are probably lucky that he does.

The result of the pupils' vote arrives: Cummins 2, Green, 47, Livingstone 130. "Fully justified," says Mr Livingstone, who is defending a majority of 1,653.

If the William Gladstone school's result were repeated nationwide it would mark the biggest Labour landslide since 1945. But Mr Livingstone might think a revitalised Ken Livingstone too high a price to pay, even for such an extravagant triumph on April 9.

## Livingstone shoots from the hip as party turns its back

By JOE JOSEPH

ELECTION campaigns can be as unpredictable as Russian roulette. Labour party managers fear Ken Livingstone is the loaded chamber.

"Are you in favour of devolving sterling, even though it contradicts official Labour policy?" a television crew asks him in a schoolroom in Dollis Hill, part of his narrowly-held north London constituency of Brent East. The skin flushes, the eyes swivel. "You've been asked to say that by M15, who sent you here just to destabilise my campaign."

It is, of course, a joke for the cutting room floor by a man who knows his reputation and plays up to it. The bigger joke is that, to the guardians of Mr Kinnock's Labour party, Mr Livingstone's serious campaign message is as whacky as his Red-Ken asides. He plays the jilted Miss Havisham of the party, entangled in his time warp, all dressed up with nowhere to go.

"I suspect that a vast majority of Labour MPs are in favour of a

power around the world? In ten years' time she'll probably replace Guy Fawkes as an effigy."

Will Mr Kinnock make a good prime minister? "I noticed it when I became leader of the GLC: everything becomes much easier. You suddenly have all that help and you get the last say on everything. Very few people can be so bad that they don't grow in stature when they become leader." Is that an endorsement?

How free is Mr Livingstone to state his own views? "My duty as a candidate is to tell people the truth." Is he surprised that Labour headquarters fears that he might disrupt the image of the new, moderate, we're-all-free-marketeers-now Labour party by making an indiscreet comment? "It's a valid fear because of what the *Daily Express* and the *Daily Mail* would do with it. If I blow my nose they would say I'm trying to spread germ warfare."

Just how scared Labour headquarters is about "loony left" headlines during the campaign is

underlined by Mr Livingstone's schedule. He moves from school halls in Dollis Hill handing out leaflets on Willesden high road, then back to school halls. When you ask headquarters for the telephone number of the Brent East Labour campaign office, nobody knows, which tells you how chummy the party plans to get with Mr Livingstone for the next fortnight.

Barred from speaking at mass rallies, Mr Livingstone turned up to lower-key events like the debate at William Gladstone Community School in Dollis Hill, with Damian Green, the Conservative candidate, and Mark Cummins, the Liberal Democrat, to take questions from pupils, followed by a mock vote.

It is hard to know what 11-year-olds made of his complex arguments on devaluation, history lessons on imperialism, the need to force the vultures in the City to invest their capitalist profits — dreamt from honest workers — in Britain rather than in New York skyscrapers.

These were remarks fashioned for

## ITALIAN VIEW

## Passions remain unleashed

By PAOLO FILO DELLA TORRE

"Today", I told my deputy editor, Sigi Pietro Jozelli, "John Major repeated that people would have to pay much more in income tax under Labour, but shadow chancellor John Smith replied that the Conservatives might well increase VAT."

Jozelli replied: "It sounds boring. A thousand words about Sean Connery campaigning for the SNP in Scotland would make much better copy."

He was right. In the absence of great issues, elections only come alive if colourful personalities are on the stump. The British election has so far been notable for its lack of both.

Niceness is all very well, but all it produces is a big yawn. Never have I had so much difficulty interesting my readers in a British general election.

The party managers are doing their best to make John Major and Neil Kinnock look resolute, but with poor results. Where is the smell of cordite, the sound of warriors charging into battle? Not since Michael Foot led the Labour party have real socialist ideals been the currency of politics here, while Mrs Thatcher was dethroned by her "loyal" followers precisely because her capitalist convictions and relish of the fight were too overt.

Major's measured tones and Kinnock's verbiage miserably fail to disguise the obvious — that Britain's present political leaders are no longer fired by conviction.

John Major has been invited to unleash the dogs of war against Labour, but can anyone seriously imagine him unleashing anything more threatening than a spaniel? We're all nice guys now.

But the Conservatives seem unsure how to play the nice guy card. When it failed to fire the troops, they called Mrs Thatcher in to do what they ditched her for doing — uttering her unmistakable battle cry. No sooner had she done so than they seemed terrified at the thought that she might upset her successor, so now they don't know what to do with her.

An old Italian waiter at the Savoy told me that he once served Sir Winston Churchill with a dessert that failed to excite him. "This cake does not have a theme," the great man grumbled. The election campaign is like Sir Winston's pudding.

It is also totally insular. Where is the debate about Europe, which after all was the catalyst for Mrs Thatcher's downfall? In any other country an issue which aroused such strong feelings would be given a good run in an election campaign, but in Britain the politicians cover from the possibility.

Of course Britain is not the only country to be facing elections this year. Italians themselves go to the polls less than a week earlier.

If Italians feel the spring sap rising in their veins they might vote for the beautiful Moana Pozzi and her Partito dell'Amore. What more revealing contrast between our two national characters than Moana and the notorious Lido St Clair and her Corrective Party? But in Britain the beautiful Moana would be confined to Page 3 of the tabloid press.

The author is London bureau chief of *La Repubblica*

ITALIAN VIEW  
Passions remain unleashed

## All the main parties have tried to strike coalition deals in hung parliaments



Thorpe: his colleagues rejected Heath's offer

Hung parliaments have occurred four times since the first world war: in 1923-4, in 1929-31, in February 1974, and in the spring of 1977. The first three occasions resulted from general elections, the fourth from the Labour government's loss of its majority through erosion during a parliament.

The election of December 1923 returned the Conservatives as the largest party, with 258 seats. But they were far short of an overall majority, because Labour, with 191 seats, and the Liberals, with 159, together substantially outnumbered them.

Stanley Baldwin, the Conservative leader, remained prime minister until the new

Liberal demands for electoral reform have featured since the minority Labour government of 1929, John Grigg writes

parliament met in January. Then the Conservatives were defeated by a combined Labour and Liberal vote, and Ramsay MacDonald, the Labour leader, was invited to form a minority government.

Meanwhile, there had been alarm at the prospect of the socialists coming to power. Efforts had been made to promote a Conservative-Liberal coalition. Baldwin and Herbert Asquith, the Liberal leader, were against the idea, so it never happened. King George V was reluctant but soon con-

cluded that Labour should be given its chance and sent for MacDonald.

Asquith rightly assumed that Labour would soon be out, but wrongly believed that he would then return to power. At the election which followed the Labour government's fall in the autumn, the Conservatives returned with an overwhelming majority and the Liberals were reduced to 40 seats.

After the next election, in May 1929, there was another hung parliament, because the

Conservatives, though the largest party, had a majority of only 28 over Labour, and the Liberals, led by Lloyd George, held the balance with 59 seats. They had nearly doubled their vote compared with 1924 but their number of seats in Parliament only increased by 19.

Lloyd George, though a late convert to electoral reform, demanded some movement towards for Liberal support for another minority Labour government. But MacDonald played for time by setting up a Speaker's conference on the issue. Before a reform bill could be carried into law, the Labour government fell, overwhelmed by the world economic crisis in 1931.

In February 1974, the Conservatives, under Edward Heath, had a majority of the popular vote but were five short of being the largest party in parliament. Heath offered Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal leader, a coalition with a seat for him in the Cabinet. But Heath could offer no worthwhile move on electoral reform and Thorpe's colleagues rejected the proposal.

Before the end of the year there was a second election, at which Labour secured a narrow overall majority. But this disappeared in early 1977 and the government would have fallen but for an arrangement negotiated by James Callaghan, the Labour leader, with David Steel, the new Liberal

leader. The so-called Lib-Lab pact gave the Liberals all the disadvantages of being in coalition with Labour, without any of the advantages, and there was no concession on electoral reform for Britain.

Today's Liberal Democrats under Paddy Ashdown will not contemplate coalition, or any arrangement to keep either of the larger parties in power, unless electoral reform is conceded in principle and in practice.

If there is a hung parliament after April 9, the Queen's role will in the first instance be simple. She will send for the leader of the largest party and ask him to form a government, with David Steel, the new Liberal

form a majority coalition, and is then defeated in Parliament, he will presumably ask for a dissolution. This, according to modern convention, will automatically be granted, and there will be another election.

Should the resulting parliament also be hung, the case for coalition would be hard to resist. Only if no elected party leader were able or willing to form a sustainable government should the Queen involve herself in the tricky business of making her own choice of a potential prime minister. This situation is improbable. In that very limited and hypothetical sense, the royal prerogative is still a factor.

## Carey calls for moral vision

The Archbishop of Canterbury has urged political parties to adopt a moral vision and to stand up for Christian values. Dr George Carey urged the politicians to help Britain to be less acquisitive and more compassionate towards less fortunate countries (Robin Young writes).

"There needs to be a re-focusing of a moral vision which takes not only our needs as a nation, and there are many, but also takes on board that we are a very comfortable nation ... and that we ought to be compassionate and caring for the world outside our shores." Dr Carey said on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday programme*.

David Blackmore, of the Keep Sunday Special campaign, called for election-free Sundays.

## Out of hospital

The grandfather of Jennifer Bennett, the girl featured in Labour's NHS election broadcast last week, was released from hospital yesterday. Peter Lee-Roberts, aged 74, collapsed while shopping on Saturday. He had not had a heart attack.

## BR cash call

Three out of five people want the government to retain ownership of British Rail and invest to improve services, a MORI survey for the Better Rail Campaign found. The group is sponsored by the rail unions and supported by over 200 passenger and environmental groups. The survey interviewed 1,012 people between March 20 and 22.

## Labour odds on

Labour is 8-13 favourite to win most seats on April 9, bookmakers Ladbrokes said. The Tories are 6-5 and the Liberal Democrats 400-1.

## Lost hour

Jim Sillars, deputy leader of the Scottish National Party, failed to appear for an interview on *Frost on Sunday* because he forgot to change his clocks to British summertime.



Trimmed image: Shirley Williams, the Liberal Democrat, being groomed for a television debate at Anglia TV's studios in Milton Keynes

## Scotland

## Lang feels the full force as Tory tactics backfire

By KAREN GILL

SCOTLAND'S political parties spent yesterday reviewing their campaign performances in the knowledge that, barring some unforeseen electoral calamity, it would take some very hard work to alter the pattern of the past two weeks' polls in time for April 9. The Conservatives will have spent most of the day licking their wounds.

With Labour safely guaranteed the majority of seats, the Tories have been tacitly encouraging nationalist support in the hope that it will bite into Labour's vote. But the tactic has backfired, with the SNP now looking increasingly threatening in three Tory seats, including that of Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary. A week

ago Mr Lang sought to inject some zeal into his troops. The result seems to have been negligible.

A Mori poll for *The Sunday Times Scotland* showed that Tory support remained stuck on 20 per cent, four points below the party's 1987 performance when it won a derisory ten Scottish seats.

Just for a moment last week the Tory campaign seemed to be gathering pace when Sir Leon Brittan and Malcolm Rifkind ventured over the border to question nationalist assumptions that an independent Scotland would easily become a member of the European Community.

It was significant that Sir Leon and Mr Rifkind, a former Scottish secretary, should direct their spleen

against the SNP. Mr Rifkind knew how to reach the headlines. A Scot himself, he was able to get away with the charge that the nationalists were motivated more by their dislike of England than their love for Scotland.

The departure of Sir Leon and Mr Rifkind saw the Tories returning to their bunkers. Today they will let loose Peter Lilley, trade and industry secretary. Since most Scots are unlikely even to have heard of him, it is a fair bet that the Scottish press will prefer to lead on Alex Salmond, SNP leader, and his economic manifesto.

Mr Lang continues to exude confidence, saying that the Tories have taken the initiative by concentrating on the constitutional issue. He might think up another initiative, since support for the constitutional status quo has actually fallen over the week from 23 per cent to 20 per cent, according to Mori. Backing for independence has remained static at 34 per cent and support for devolution has risen two places to 44 per cent.

Once again the SNP has been shown unable to close the gap between support for the party and independence. Mori showed the nationalists still on 27 per cent, 15 points behind Labour. Albeit recording about double their support in 1987, they are still as far away from their predicted breakthrough.

Meanwhile the Liberal Democrats have been returned to double figures, 10 per cent, from last week's Mori poll, when they were down to nine.

## THE HEARING

A hearing on the settlement will be held before Judge Speigel on June 5th, 1992, at 10.00am, Courtroom 842, United States Post Office and Courthouse, 100 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, to determine whether the settlement is fair. You or your lawyer may attend.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

If you have reason to believe that you or your spouse has a C-C valve, you should get more information by completing and returning the "Information Form" below without delay.

Returning the "Information Form" will not commit you to any course of action, but will provide you with the information you need to protect your rights. Also, returning the form will assure that the court has your name and address so that you can receive the money and other benefits of the settlement, if you do not exclude yourself from the lawsuit.

You may feel you need further legal information, if so you may receive it without charge to yourself by indicating this in the appropriate space on the "Information Form".

You may also object to the settlement, or exclude yourself from the lawsuit. These terms, and their implications for you, are explained in the information you will receive after you return the "Information Form". You will not be able to object or exclude yourself, however, unless you do so in writing to Daniel J. Lyons, Jr., Deputy Clerk, United States Post Office and Courthouse, 100 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, USA, by no later than June 1st, 1992.

If you do not exclude yourself, you will be bound by the settlement and will not be allowed to bring a lawsuit relating to your or your spouse's C-C heart valve, except to enforce the settlement agreement or if the valve malfunctions.

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Mr Chesley is a lawyer appointed by the court to represent C-C valve patients and their spouses worldwide. I would like to be contacted by a European based lawyer appointed by Mr Chesley who will communicate with me in the following language (indicate one only):
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Please obtain proof that you or your spouse is a recipient of a Bjork-Shiley C-C heart valve. You will be asked to provide this information at a later time to support your claim.

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This is a legal notice to notify you of a lawsuit in the USA which also affects people outside of the USA. If you have a Bjork-Shiley C-C valve you are entitled to money and other benefits.

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## THE LAWSUIT

A lawsuit in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, has been filed on behalf of all people in the world with the Bjork-Shiley C-C valve. The name of the lawsuit is *Bowling, et al v Shiley Incorporated and Pfizer Inc*, Case No C-1-256. It is pending before Judge S Arthur Speigel in the US District Court in Cincinnati, Ohio. This notice provides you with some brief information about this lawsuit.

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A C-C VALVE?

If you received a heart valve before 1979, or after 1986, you probably do not have a C-C valve.

You can tell if you have a C-C valve by looking at your implant card if you received one after your surgery. If you have a Bjork-Shiley valve and the serial number of your valve has the letter "C" in it, you have a C-C valve. If the serial number does not have the letter "C", you do not have a C-C valve. Your doctor may also be able to help you find out if you have a C-C valve.

ONCE AGAIN, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A C-C VALVE, THIS NOTICE DOES NOT AFFECT YOU. IF YOU DO HAVE A C-C VALVE, PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

## WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

The settlement being considered by the court in Ohio provides:

- a payment to you or your spouse that can be used for any purpose, including consultation with a physician or other health care provider;
- additional medical research that may benefit you;
- the availability of a guaranteed, prompt settlement should a fracture of the valve occur. In that event if you do not accept the guaranteed payment, you may seek compensation through arbitration, or file a lawsuit.

Please complete the "Information Form" to obtain more details about the settlement.

it's back

# Anglo-Argentines bat on in defence of tea and scones



Juan Perón: regime led to English exodus

CRIMES of "How's that?" echoed across the Hurlingham Club cricket field on the outskirts of Buenos Aires as the home team caught out the touring Rosslyn cricket club's last batsman to beat them by 127 runs on the 10th anniversary of the Falklands war.

As the home side and the visitors from north London headed for the colonial-style pavilion for tea with scones and jam, rather than the typical Argentine late Sunday lunch of barbecue beef, the visitors were consoled by the knowledge that they had lost to a team which they called "more British than the British", a team of Anglo-Argentines who think of themselves as British in all but one respect. "We could never totally take the British side over the

Falklands war," said Brian Roberts, one of the Hurlingham batsmen. "The conflict eventually pushed us to decide that we were closer to Argentina because we lived here and had to continue living here. In the past ten years our community has integrated much more. The war was like a push which forced us to decide."

Otherwise the Anglo-Argentine community is well known for its efforts to maintain traditions and is considered an isolated community with eccentric habits. The Hurlingham Club is one of the last reminders of British influence in Argentina, an enclave of a dwindling but traditional Anglo community. The 103-year-old club, which looks distinctly like a

The British in Argentina found their loyalties divided by the Falklands war and now their children prefer to speak Spanish. Gabriella Gamini writes

brickbuilt railway station of days gone by, was founded by some of the first British settlers in Argentina, who arrived to build the railways in the 1880s.

First it was used for horse racing. British landowners and businessmen bet with the money they made in Argentina. Then came golf for the railway managers, and eventually polo and cricket. Horse racing is the only pursuit that no longer exists. The club also prides itself of having Argentina's only three lawn tennis

courts, which are used by Gabriella Sabatini, the Argentine tennis star, for Wimbledon practice.

"We are trying hard to keep our British traditions, and cricket is one of them. We take cricket jolly seriously," Michael Roberts, the Hurlingham captain, said. "We made sure the native craze for football was never allowed." Footballs, indeed, are banned from the club's 170-acre grounds.

But the tiny crowd which sat down to join the players

for tea was a sign of a community in decline. When British migration was at its height between the two world wars, a time when Argentina was referred to as "the bread basket of the world", the community had numbered more than 400,000. Today there are fewer than 30,000.

"I am afraid we are dying out rather rapidly. Forty years ago there were splendid crowds for cricket, now you get just a handful. That's because there are not many true British left," said Mike Parsons, cricket correspondent for an English-language daily.

The community began to dwindle after the Perón regime between 1945 and 1955, when railways were nationalised, leading many

Anglos to migrate back to Britain.

Those who remained tried to isolate themselves, but the older generation now fears the young are becoming more "Latin" and breaking away. "Our children are refusing to speak English, although we send them to proper schools," said Herbert Keen, aged 63, the general manager of the Hurlingham Club, whose family was among the earliest settlers.

"We've had to translate the cricket rules into Spanish. Luckily 'How's that?' just cannot be translated, so we'll keep some traditions, whatever," he added. Mr Keen has strict rules for accepting new members into the club. They have to come highly recommended by other Anglos and

put up an £11,500 membership fee. "These days more and more Argentines join. We're becoming a rare breed," he said.

Andrew Black, aged 65, whose grandfather arrived in 1882 to build the railway which runs through Hurlingham, said: "We kept telling our children that they were British, but outside the home they were learning to stick up for Argentina, so they opted to rebel against us."

"We thought that the war was a mistake. We feared that we'd suffer hostility, but never did, and therefore made sure that our Argentine friends knew we were not on any side," he added. "Most of us hope the whole dispute over those islands can be solved amicably."

## Khmer Rouge attacked

# Battles mar Cambodian homecoming

BY JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE government in Phnom Penh announced yesterday it was launching a military operation against the Khmer Rouge guerrillas, setting back United Nations efforts for a ceasefire in Cambodia's embattled north.

The announcement came on the eve of a UN operation to repatriate 375,000 refugees from camps along the Thai-Cambodian border into the interior of the country. The first 600 refugees were to be transported today from camps just inside Thailand across the frontier to western Cambodia.

The outbreak of fighting will not affect them, but UN officials cite violations of the ceasefire as another problem facing the general repatriation effort. The first returning refugees will find a country torn by landmines, arid and sun-baked.

Jean-Jacques Fresard, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said the beginning of the homecoming to a land searching for peace "is a great human endeavour and a difficult one".

Socialism has been abandoned for a dog-eat-dog capi-

tion. But the government of Thailand is tired of the burden and in the world at large there is compassion fatigue. The first returning Cambodians will be given some land, "probably" mine-free, the frame for a house, some tools and the promise of food for 18 months.

Refugees under 20 years old have known little of life outside the censored camps, of work in the ricefields of contaminated drinking water, impoverished schools, poor health care and malaria.

Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN peacekeepers, yesterday described the return as "historic", and certainly it is vital to the Cambodian peace process. Under the accord, the repatriation must be completed before UN-supervised elections next year, allowing the UN to withdraw gracefully after the biggest peacekeeping operation in the history of the world body.

To those who witnessed the exodus of the Cambodians 13 years ago, after the Vietnamese army toppled the Khmer Rouge, it is also a poignant moment. In early 1979, they came emaciated, tottering through the forests to topple over dead at the roadside, or lie screaming on the ground in the extremes of cerebral malaria — "as if their brains are boiling", as one doctor said.

Some crawled to safety, a minority to find sanctuary in the United States, France and Britain, but most to stay for years in the camps, to serve as a fighting or labour pool for the Khmer Rouge and the non-communist resistance to the Vietnamese-backed regime here.

But most dreamed of a return to Cambodia, the promised land restored. It would also be nice to think the Khmer Rouge had gone forever, but of course they are part of the "peace process" and as such are currently engaged in bloody combat with the Phnom Penh government's forces in the province of Kompong Thom. Pol Pot will be the ghost at the feast today in Sisophon, as Prince Sihanouk and Mr Akashi make their speeches.



Belle canto: Paige O'Hara, the voice of Belle in the Walt Disney film *Beauty and the Beast*, singing one of the songs nominated for an Oscar at a rehearsal for tonight's 64th annual awards ceremony in Los Angeles

## Misfits compete for the Oscars

HOLLYWOOD is expected to reflect the gloom overhanging America in its annual Oscar awards tonight, writes Charles Bremner from New York

their anger over the way Hollywood portrays homosexuals as psychopaths and villains.

Prime offenders, they say, are *JFK*, which features a group of campy New Orleans bigots, and *The Silence of the Lambs*, with its homosexual killer. Both films are favourites to win awards in the annual high mass of self-congratulation. "We'll show Hollywood homophobes we're not going to take their crap any more," said an an-

nouncement from Queer Nation, a group which has staged spectacular protests in New York and other cities over the past year.

If the organisers' military-style counter-measures fail, the ceremony could be in for an embarrassment to rival the appearance in 1974 of a streaker as David Niven introduced Elizabeth Taylor or Vanessa Redgrave and Marlon Brando's political acceptance diatribes of the same decade.

Oscars for egotism, page 14

## Arab split looms on Lockerbie embargo

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

CONFUSED and increasingly desperate Arab attempts to find an 11th-hour compromise to the Lockerbie affair appear to have failed last night, opening the way to a confrontation between Libya and the international community, with wide implications for the Arab world.

The United Nations Security Council is due to vote today to impose an arms and air embargo on Libya if it fails to turn over the two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing by April 15. Western diplomats say the 15-nation council is virtually certain to pass the measure with more than the nine votes required.

A senior Algerian official said that he expected the Western-led imposition of UN sanctions to lead to street demonstrations in certain Arab countries and to be exploited by Islamic fundamentalists known for their anti-Western standpoints.

"There is a strong feeling at street level that, whatever the rights and wrongs of this particular case, the US and Britain are pressing something that will be unacceptable to many ordinary Arabs," said the official, who requested anonymity. "Can you imagine us telling our police to remove Libyan diplomats or close down their airline?"

It is understood that plans for extra protection of Western embassies and property have been drawn up in a number of Arab capitals. Arab radicals are said to be planning to exploit reinstatement of the sanctions by moderate Arab regimes, like Egypt and Morocco, which will be torn between Arab obligations and UN obligations.

Yesterday two senior Libyans who flew to Cairo for last-minute talks with President Mubarak and officials from the Arab League again vowed "no surrender" over demands that the two Lockerbie suspects be handed over for trial in America or Scotland.

The crisis has reached an extremely critical and sensitive stage and I do not know if there are any proposals at this moment that could stop matters at a certain point or not," said Amr Moussa, Egypt's foreign minister, looking worried. "But we will keep trying to the last moment."

## Israelis launch last search for Ivan proof

Jerusalem: Israeli prosecutors yesterday left for Moscow in a last desperate attempt to discover fresh evidence proving that John Demjanjuk, the convicted Nazi war criminal, was the notorious Treblinka guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" (Richard Beeston writes).

With only four weeks to go before the Israeli supreme court is to hear the final arguments in Demjanjuk's appeal against the death sentence, Michael Shaked, the state prosecutor, must unearth concrete proof placing the appellant in the Nazi death camp if he is to have any hope of winning the case.

What was once regarded as a strong prosecution case mainly backed by eye-witness testimony from camp survivors has been undermined by documentary evidence suggesting that Demjanjuk was a *wachman* (Ukrainian guard), but not the sadistic gas chamber operator accused of killing 800,000 Polish Jews.

### Leaders held

Islamabad: The Pakistani government has arrested top leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front to try to prevent an attempted crossing of the Kashmir ceasefire line. A curfew is in force throughout the Indian side of the Kashmir valley.

### Air thickens

Houston: The Earth's atmosphere is in much worse condition than two years ago because of a heavy layer of dust and smoke, according to Kathy Sullivan, a specialist on the US shuttle Atlantis. She also flew a shuttle mission in April 1990. (Reuters)

### Liberals win

Tokyo: Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic party took two seats in a hard-fought poll in Gunma in the first by-election it has won this year, according to early unofficial results. The opposition Socialist party lost the seat it previously held. (Reuters)

### Ignition blamed

Peking: Chinese engineers blame an ignition circuit for last week's failure of a Long March-2E rocket to lift off. The rocket, built by Hughes Aircraft Corporation, was to have launched an Australian satellite. Another attempt will be made later. (Reuters)

### Suspects freed

Buenos Aires: Argentina's supreme court has ordered the authorities to release four Pakistanis held since last week in connection with the March 12 bombing of the Israeli embassy in which 28 people died and more than 200 were injured. (AFP)

### Flood kills 29

Hong Kong: Twenty-nine people have been killed and more than 70 injured in the central Chinese province of Jiangxi as a result of several days of torrential rains and flooding. The rains have affected more than a million people. (Reuters)

### Nasa chief dies

New York: James Edwin Webb, head of Nasa from its infancy until the Moon landing in 1969, has died, aged 85. In 1961 President Kennedy gave him the task of landing men on the Moon within a decade. (Reuters)

### Obituary, page 17

### Toys released

Los Angeles: By special permission of the UN sanctions committee, 2,000 teddy bears assembled by Dianne Justice, a Santa Barbara nurse, will soon leave for Iraq. Customs officials here had impounded the bears for 59 days in terms of UN sanctions. (AP)

## Democrats rush to get rid of perks and the Speaker

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

TOM FOLEY, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, is fighting to save his job — less than three years after his predecessor, Jim Wright, was forced to resign because of personal misconduct.

As fresh details of the House bank and post office scandals have been appalled by Mr Foley's dilatory response to the allegations against his wife, he said that she had done nothing wrong.

William Barr, the attorney general, has appointed a special counsel to investigate possible criminal offences at the bank, which has now been closed, where nearly 300 congressmen used to bounce cheques on a breathtaking scale.

A federal grand jury is examining alleged criminal activities at the post office, including the laundering of campaign money by congressmen and drug trafficking. Jack Russ, the sergeant-at-arms, and Robert Rota, the postmaster, have resigned and three post office employees have been accused of embezzling more than \$30,000. Mrs Foley testified before the grand jury last week.

The Speaker's position has been further weakened by the unflattering media attention being suddenly focused on his wife, Heather, who is his unpaid chief of staff. She has been linked to attempts to delay an investigation of criminal activities at the

## Blacks think society gave Tyson raw deal

## Jamaica's new leader rejects big changes

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

JAMAICA has its first black prime minister after P. J. Patterson dodged scandal to win the nomination of the ruling People's National party.

He was forced to resign from the cabinet in January after granting a \$1.47 million (£850,000) tax waiver to Shell Oil, but retains party support.

He said he did not benefit from the grant.

In spite of a dismal outlook for the economy a day after the Jamaican currency dropped to a new low against the dollar, Mr Patterson promised "no radical change in direction". Mr Patterson, a former finance minister and deputy prime minister, was educated in Britain.

He succeeds Michael Manley, who announced this month that he was retiring owing to ill health after 22 years as the leader of the party since it was founded by his father.

Mr Patterson insisted he would be his own man and would not emulate his predecessor. "Michael Manley, P. J. Patterson is P. J. Patterson. He's

more: "You cannot build a world on violence. When all politicians, actors, artists, workers, men, women and representatives of all religions are agreed on this point, then we will be able to solve all other problems."

Zindzi Mandela, aged 30, the daughter of Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, and his wife Winnie, became engaged yesterday to Zwelibanzi Hlongwane, a Soweto businessman aged 27. The couple intend to marry later this year.

The multimillionaire property developer and chairman of the Arts Council, Lord Palumbo, aged 56, has accepted an invitation to become the first chancellor of Britain's newest university, Portsmouth Polytechnic, which is to adopt university status later this year in a huge redevelopment project.

Patterson: will bring his own style to post

got his own style, his own stamp. I've got to bring my own style, my own stamp," he said.

Patterson, his rival for the nomination, refused to accept defeat. "Patterson is leaving this arena a victorious woman," said Miss Simpson, a former secretary and social worker. "Whatever happens, I will still be regarded as the prime minister of the Jamaican people."

## Yeltsin flounders in Dnestr quagmire Moldavia looks to Romania for help

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE Moldavian authorities threatened to call on their kinsmen across the border in Romania to crush the breakaway Slav mini-republic of Dnestr in the east of the country. Moscow, caught between respect for Moldavia as a sovereign state and emotional ties to its Russian-speaking kinsmen in the republic, offered its services as mediator and urged all parties to obey international law and respect minorities.

Valeriu Muravitschi, Moldavia's prime minister, said his government, which proclaimed a state of emergency on Saturday, was contemplating the use of force to reassert its authority over the combat zone. Moldavia, along with Ukraine and Azerbaijan, has pledged to pull out of the former Soviet republics' joint defence system and started to establish its own army.

On the east bank, the Dnestr mini-republic — established on territory that was never part of Romania — can count on several thousand Cossack volunteers, as well as local security forces, and probably tacit support from the former Soviet garrison. Gavr Smirnov, the head of the Dnestr administration, responded to the state of emergency by declaring a curfew and urging his forces to be "ready to resist attacks" from the Moldavian side.

The cause of the Slavs in eastern Moldavia enjoys widespread support among nationalists in the Russian Federation, and President Yeltsin will be politically vulnerable if it appears that he has failed to protect their interests. Moscow's appeal for a peaceful settlement was conveyed in a message from Andrei Kuyrev, the Russian foreign minister, to his counterparts in Romania, Moldavia and Ukraine.

The desperate efforts of Mircea Snegur, Moldavia's president, to keep his ethnically mixed territory together as a single, loosely structured state are coming under attack from several quarters as his domestic critics intensify their campaign for reunion with Romania.

Leaders of Moldavia's pro-unification Popular Front say they would sacrifice the Slav-dominated eastern strip of the republic in return for the creation of an enlarged Romanian state within its pre-1940 boundaries. Under this solution, which enjoys some support in Bucharest, Romania would reclaim most of Moldavia, as well as two small regions of the Ukraine. Kiev might, in turn, take the Slav industrial centres on the east bank of the Dnestr. However, Dumitru Pavlychko, chairman of Ukraine's foreign affairs commission, said after meeting Moldavian leaders in Kishinev at the weekend that the countries had no territorial claims on each other.

Despite a ceasefire arranged on Saturday between Serb irregulars on one side and Croats and Muslims on the other, refugees were continuing to stream out of this besieged northern Bosnian town yesterday. It is now almost totally deserted.

A Croatian militia man, aged 27, was killed by a sniper yesterday morning and angry armed Croats and Muslims denounced the ceasefire, which is to be enforced by ethnically mixed special police units. "There will be no buffer zone and no ceasefire," said Mr Blazevic, who complained that the terms demanded a Croat-Muslim retreat.

The centre of Bosnian Brod bears the scars of several days of Serbian shelling from a stronghold on the outskirts which ended early on Saturday morning. Thirty people are reported to have been killed here since the beginning of March.

A woman hardly brought in her laundry as her husband and daughter packed their car with as many bags as they could cram in, the video and several large suitcases. "Almost everyone has left," said the husband. "The Yugoslav army says it is going to make this the Bosnian Vukovar." He was referring to the Croatian town utterly devastated by three months of siege by the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav army and its militia allies last year.

A neighbour rushed up. "We've all got to go. Now. My relatives just phoned, they said that tanks and rockets are coming this way, they are going to flatten this place." A



Muslim militia man sipped his coffee. "I want 50 of those Serb snipers to come here right now. I'd mow them down and chop them up."

An eerie feeling hangs over Bosnian Brod. This is where Croatia meets Lebanon. The bravado, the military disorganisation and the panic are reminiscent of Croatian towns and villages early last year before they fell before the Serb advance.

But Croatia was simple Croats versus Serbs. Here gunmen and volunteers from a multitude of "armies" prowl the streets. "Allah is great," say the badges snatched from the jackets of Muslims. Others, members of the Bosnian Patriotic League, also known as the Bosnian Army, sport the *fleur de lis*. Bosnian heraldic symbol suddenly revived after a thousand years in almost total obscurity.

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Battle-hardened Croats with the insignia of the Croatian army also man the barricades, but all claim they are locals. Some wear the "U" symbol of Croatia's wartime Nazi puppet regime.

"Of course we want help from Croatia," said Mr Blazevic. "But they cannot help us. They are an independent country."

Across the river Sava, in the neighbouring Croatian town of Slavonski Brod, a military policeman said: "We've got 20 tanks here and boy, we are ready to go, but we have written orders from Zagreb — we are not going over the river."

Bosnia's politicians meet in Brussels today in what may be their last chance to prevent the long-feared Bosnian civil war. While fighting raged in Croatia, a balance of terror between Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Muslims kept the peace. It has collapsed in Bosnian Brod, and if it cannot be contained war will engulf the rest of the Republic.

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## Serbian shelling of Bosnian town shatters ceasefire

Prospects for the UN's Yugoslav peace plan grew dimmer as bitter enmity between Croats and Serbs resurfaced. Tim Judah writes from Bosnian Brod

MARTE Blazevic, a member of the crisis committee of Bosnian Brod, touched the wound on his face. "The civil war has begun and it has begun right here in our town," he said.

If Mr Blazevic is right, Bosnia-Herzegovina will soon be plunged into vicious conflict and the United Nations peace plan for Yugoslavia will be dealt an almost certainly fatal blow.

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## Patchwork quilt of French politics smothers Socialists

With President Mitterrand still attempting to retain his grip on power, John Laughland examines the growing fragmentation of politics in France

gions did any party come up with an absolute majority.

The Socialists had hoped to be able to count on the support of the ecologists (already divided into two rival parties), the Communists, and various other centre-leftists in the elections for the presidencies of the regional assemblies which took place on Friday.

The strategy had been to split the traditional right-wing opposition on the question of whether to form electoral pacts with the National Front and the charismatically reactionary and romantic Hunting, Fishing, Nature and Tradition party on the right, founded to oppose Brussels' attempts to ban the shooting of wood pigeons.

Because the regional assemblies are elected by proportional representation (unlike the National Assembly), the result was that in only three out of the 22 re-

gions did any party come up with an absolute majority.

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The sense of panic was further heightened by the fact that both Mme Cresson and Pierre Bérégovoy, the finance minister, found themselves facing unexpected challenges

in the second round of local elections held yesterday. It is difficult to see where President Mitterrand can go from here. There is not only the sensitive question of a possible replacement for Mme Cresson: the president would have to be sure that any new prime minister would be capable of genuinely re-launching the collapsing fortunes of the Socialists, and any incoming prime minister might be sipping from a poisoned chalice.

There is also the huge unpopularity of the system of proportional representation used for regional elections which M. Mitterrand wants to introduce at national level as well, so as to prevent the right from gaining an absolute majority, even if this means dismantling the Socialist party in the process.

There is a deep consensus in France that on no account should there be any return to the chronic instability which characterised French politics under the Third and Fourth Republics (until 1958). Yet the outcome of the regional elections has also revealed a deeper dilemma: how does one enforce a reasonable de-

gree of political coherence on a country so obviously fragmented?

There is a final difficulty. M. Mitterrand has for long hoped to use "Europe" as the point around which to rally a new centre-left, post-Socialist coalition. Because the Maastricht treaty would have to be ratified between the spring solstice (March 21) and the summer equinox (June 21), perhaps he should have paid more attention to the Ides of March.

If there were to be a referendum on this, it is difficult to see how the issue of Europe

could be separated from the issue of M. Mitterrand's government as a whole, and it is hardly likely that the outcome would be favourable to the president. M. Mitterrand said recently that the Maastricht treaty would have to be ratified between the spring solstice (March 21) and the summer equinox (June 21). Perhaps he should have paid more attention to the Ides of March.

Paris: After a week of dour contemplation, President Mitterrand is poised to break

Mitterrand: looking for an escape route

Cresson: hampered by massive unpopularity

John Laughland is a lecturer in politics at the Sorbonne.

his silence about what comes next for France's crumbling Socialist government (Philip Jacobson writes).

Political insiders were predicting yesterday that he will react to the disastrous regional election results with an address to the nation early this week, perhaps even to day. At the top of his agenda must be the question of whether the time has finally come to end Mme Cresson's turbulent 10 months as prime minister. Her own massive unpopularity was clearly reflected in the stunning setback for her party throughout France: Mme Cresson has also committed the grave political offence of damaging M. Mitterrand's standing with the voters.

To form, the president has been playing his cards close to the chest, allowing aides to drop the odd gnomic hint about his intentions to the media. This has naturally intensified the feverish speculation about Mme Cresson's future — assuming she has one — and the relative standing of possible successors.

John Laughland is a lecturer in politics at the Sorbonne.

Dubcek elected

Prague: Alexander Dubcek, communist leader of Czechoslovakia during the 1968 "Prague Spring", was elected chairman of the Slovak Social Democratic party. "Our aim is to unite Europe and a dignified place for Czechoslovakia in it," he said.

Taking up arms

Sofia: Monks and nuns in Bulgaria have applied for gun licences to defend religious property and themselves. In recent months, thieves working under the guidance of art experts have stolen icons, gold and silver crosses and a church bell. (AFP)

Towns seized

Moscow: Armed supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted president of Georgia, seized the western towns of Khobi, Abasha and Senaki and gave local government officials the sack. The Georgian interior ministry said from Tbilisi. (Reuters)

Sex offered

Biella, Italy: Italian prostitutes in the northern town of Biella have offered clients free use of their services for 24 hours to win back business lost to immigrant girls who, they say, undercut agreed rates and fail to take health

care. (Reuters)

# Where Labour is vulnerable

The polls are less comfort to Kinnock than they appear, says Peter Riddell

RIDDELL  
ON MONDAY

Labour leaders are already talking like ministers, but they should not assume the election is in the bag. The party has so far fought the sharpest campaign as it did in 1987, and it remains ahead of the Tories. But Labour has not made any further headway in the past week.

Behaving like a government is smart tactics for a party so long in opposition. Talk of shadows is banned; it is now Labour's chancellor or budget. In his interview yesterday with Brian Walden on ITV, Neil Kinnock sought to reassure not only in his comments about public spending but also by dressing so soberly that he could be mistaken for one of the more old-fashioned members of the Attlee cabinet in 1945. I am waiting to hear that John Smith's favourite reading is the budget speeches of Stafford Cripps.

However, the latest polls are of less comfort to Labour than they appear. The bitter row over Jennifer Bennett has damaged both parties but, overall, has worked slightly to Labour's disadvantage on a question, health, that should have helped to increase its lead. Nearly a week has been wasted.

More worrying for Labour is the advance of the Liberal Democrats, clear beneficiaries of the Bennett row at a time when some of its canvassers were becoming worried about signs of weakening support. As it is, the party's rating has risen by three points, near to where the former Alliance stood at this stage of the 1987 campaign. This could, of course, be a temporary blip, but the party is fighting a more coherent campaign than five years ago, clearly differentiating itself on education and on Europe. The party has a good base for the rest of the campaign, especially as it may receive more attention if there is talk of a hung parliament.

The electoral impact varies across the regions. Liberal Democrat support appears to be weaker in the North than in the South, in contrast with the even pattern of the past. So the anti-Tory swing could let Labour gain a large number of seats in the North-West and Yorkshire. But in the South, a relatively strong showing by the Liberal Democrats could hold back Labour. Admittedly, Tories with narrow majorities, as in Cheltenham, Portsmouth South, Bath and Richmond, could suffer from any Liberal Democrat advance. But in many other seats where the opposition vote is fairly evenly divided, Tories could absorb a drop in their vote in face of advances by both Labour and Liberal Democrats. There could be some close results, however.

The refusal of the Liberal Democrats to disappear in the South reflects a deeper difficulty for Labour — the widespread doubts of voters both about Mr Kinnock's abilities and about the party's economic competence. Although Labour is generally credited with having fought the most impressive

The refusal of the Lib Dems to disappear in the South reflects a deeper difficulty for Labour'

ing constraints on public spending and borrowing. The party's emergency recovery programme is in that respect mainly a gesture of looking active in contrast to the Treasury's apparent passivity — and one that may be offset by the impact of tax increases.

The Tories are suffering from a mirror difficulty. Their negative campaigning against Labour may have solidified their own core support, and limited a further advance by the Opposition. But the Tories have not been able to move into the lead because they have failed to offer a coherent justification for a fourth term.

They have been unsure whether to distance themselves from the Thatcher years or to trumpet their achievements. There have been only sporadic positive statements by John Major and Michael Heseltine, though a shift of approach is now promised. That has been the Tories' main difficulty rather than the ephemeral, and panicky, backbiting over media tactics by retiring MPs and former growers. As Bernard Ingham once growled to me, "I wouldn't want to go into the jungle with that lot."

The election will turn on the balance between blaming the Tories for the recession and doubts about a Labour government. Mr Kinnock conceded yesterday that recessions do not necessarily radicalise people, because they create insecurity. There were, he said, people who will hold on to nurse. He did not complete Belloc's line, "for fear of finding something worse".

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

The first edition of a new magazine in my county, *Derby Now*, leads off with a nude article about the city itself. "Derby," it says, "is a city with a mucky North image; it's a cultural desert with a poor city centre . . . and, the feature adds, "that's official." It seems that a specially commissioned report has discovered that Derby has a low profile on the national stage".

Actually, we knew that. But this report comes from a London firm of strategic analysts.

What are strategic analysts? Are they like psychoanalysts? I have no idea, but of this I am sure: when these analysts have finished they will send a bill. Their recommendations, meanwhile, will cost more. "Profile on the national stage" does not come cheap. An opera house, perhaps, a major airport, two universities, three teaching hospitals and an international trade fair . . . these things cost. Most are already available in the larger nearby Midlands cities. Dear old Derby might like to pause and ask herself whether there is an easier way.

There is. Derby could lead the field. You wonder how? Look again at the sentence with which that magazine article began: "Derby is a city . . ."

Derby is not a city. In all her long and proud history, she has never been a city. Derby is a town: a fine old town, never more, never less. But, since that royal charter during the Queen's silver jubilee in 1977, Derby has

been pretending. The pretence is unconvincing. The gap between the image called up by the word "city" and the modest realities of a redbrick Midlands town is too wide. The problem lies not with Derby, but with the claims made for her.

Our church is a splendid church but a pitiful cathedral.

We have no polytechnic and no university: nearby Nottingham, Loughborough, Leicester and Sheffield offer plenty of both.

A couple of cinemas, a market, the Assembly Rooms and a rather small shopping centre — no square, no fountains — add up to an unassuming conurbation and two parliamentary constituencies. Picture what a town is supposed to be, and Derby leaps out as a solid and imposing example. For a town, facilities are good: and the architecture, though mostly unmemorable, shows swagger enough. Think what a city is supposed to be, and we're on the ropes. Our town has picked a fight with a much bigger girl.

What is a city? The presence of a cathedral cannot really be the touchstone, for Ely is not a city, surely. Size alone is not enough. Newcastle is rather small but is obviously a city. Birmingham is enormous but only just manages to be a city these days. Words, like other kinds of coinage, get devalued.

The pressures upon words conveying size or status pushes their meaning ever wider, to cover subjects progressively less worthy. Town clerks, having

watched it on television," said Glenda Jackson of the 1979 Oscar ceremony. "I felt disgusted as though I was watching a public hanging. No one should have a chance to see so much desire, so much need for a prize, and so much pain when not given."

The pain of losing will be especially acute tonight when studio executives think of the millions of dollars they have spent on wooing Academy members. Since January, the mail-boxes of the voters have been deluged with gifts, screening invitations and video cassettes in designer bags. Sending out 5,000 video costs about \$40,000.

When they drove up Sunset Boulevard their attention was bought by 30ft-high "wishes to congratulate" hoardings for films no longer on release. The countdown to the closing date for ballot papers saw *Variety* and the *Hollywood Reporter* getting fatter each day with \$10,000 double-page colour advertisements. The British Academy member Jerry Pam, whose PR firm handles Roger Moore and Michael Caine, estimates his Oscar campaign mail to be double that of five years ago.

# William Cash in Hollywood watches millions being lavished on a need to be loved

# Oscars for egotism

The Croesus-like sums spent this year on Oscar lobbying — well beyond the pocket of such British-made films as Mike Leigh's *Life is Sweet*, which won the National Film Critics Award but failed to be Academy nominated — raises a question. Can you buy an Oscar? If so, how much?

Oscar campaigning this year cost the big studios about \$7 million. Despite filing for bankruptcy, Orion spent \$325,000 promoting *Silence of the Lambs*, which is up for seven awards, including Anthony Hopkins for Best Actor. TriStar (*Bugsy, The Fisher King*) and Disney (*Beauty and the Beast*) have each spent about \$1 million, in promotion. Disney went so far as hiring the veteran lobbyist Happy Gandy (fee: \$35,000), to ensure that its animated film stands a good chance of winning Best Original Song and Best Score. Gandy's 25-year campaigning record is unsurpassed, with nine Oscars and 33 nominations.

But tempting as it may be to imagine Hollywood as a town ruled by money, Oscar lobbying has more to do with vanity than financial greed. The real purpose of the Oscar campaign trail is self-aggrandisement. Executives get to see their names emblazoned in self-congratulatory large type around Hollywood. Most of the advertisements in the trade newspapers — such as *TriStar* touting Arnold Schwarzenegger for Best Director. When Sally Field won Best Actress for the second time, she said that on the first occasion she had not been sure, but "now I know you like me — you really like me".

What is rarely understood outside Hollywood is that the ambition there is not only to make money — most have sizeable fortunes already — but to make films that matter. The criterion for deciding Best Picture is not box-office success (*My Left Foot* grossed only \$2.65 million before it was nominated), but seriousness of purpose.

Some idea of the importance

Hollywood attaches to the medium of film can be judged from the Academy's new \$6 million Center for Motion Picture Study in Beverly Hills. The building has been designed as an exact copy of a Spanish Revival church, with its steeple modelled after the Giralda Tower in Seville. Inside, the centre has the hushed feel of a monastic library.

Insecurity is rampant in Hollywood. The Oscars are the ultimate test of popularity, which is why Jodie Foster should win Best Actress again, and why Barbra Streisand was snubbed for Best Director. When Sally Field won Best Actress for the second time, she said that on the first occasion she had not been sure, but "now I know you like me — you really like me".

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on sale), it is likely that all hope has been abandoned years ago, and its place filled with drink.

How then is a workforce to be recruited, trained, inspired and rewarded out of the material to hand? It is all very well to say that the market will do the job: so it will, but even the sturdiest market will have to take a breath or two in pushing over mountains. And the danger is obvious: not that there will be a return to communism, but that, tired of waiting for a loaf of bread, the potential workforce will have given up their last slender hope and slumped into a despond from which no promise, no incentive, can make them rise.

To a considerable extent, the nations of the Soviet Empire are in the same situation: there is now a good deal of cynicism about. But the Poles, the Czechoslovaks, the Hungarians and the rest had, to inspire them throughout the Occupation, one beacon that could never be put out: their hatred for the evil thing that had stolen their land and lives. True, the Soviet colonies had been in pawn for more than 40 years, and it might be thought that every sliver of resistance or national feeling would have been crushed, which was what happened to the captive peoples of the Soviet Union themselves. That is what the Soviet rulers hoped, and eventually believed, but they were wrong: the flame of hatred never flickered.

Let us help Mrs Likhoda, and all her kind, for ultimately it is her kind that will save their country. But you cannot build a house by starting with the roof. It is tuition in the simplest task that is needed, and here is an opportunity for our own shrunken and downhearted unions. The Russian lands need bricklayers, electricians, carpenters, railwaymen, drivers, glaziers, bakers, steelworkers and for that matter grave diggers. Years of indifference have debased these trades, and left a shortage of those who can pay them, even badly. They need tuition, and our unions, out of favour for ever in Britain, might be welcomed. After all, the slavish fellow-travelling once rife among our union leaders demands some repayment. We could even send Scargill: you never know when they might need strikers.

helicopter at Ipswich airport. At the last moment his arrival was switched because aides realised the Labour controlled borough council planned to close the airport, with a resulting loss of jobs.

Smith landed instead in the grounds of a hotel on the other side of the town. He was driven to an engineering factory just across the road from the airport, then all the way back to his helicopter. Trevor Seymour, of Ipswich Flying School, said: "My secretary took a call from a charter company asking if Mr Smith's helicopter could pick him up here. We said there was no problem, but they rang back and said there was: over the council closing the airport."

## Holbein hopeful

LORD Holmeley, owner of Holbein's *Portrait of a Woman with a Squirrel*, is expected to make a decision today on whether to sell it to the National Gallery. Last week the gallery confirmed there had been negotiations with Holmeley over the painting. The peer's friends expect him to agree to a reported new offer of £10 million cash, an increase of £2 million in the past week.

Christie's was expected to auction the picture on April 15. But a sale at auction would mean a hefty tax bill for Holmeley, and a large commission fee. By agreeing to an offer from the National Gallery he would avoid tax under the "douceur" system, which encourages owners to sell privately to national institutions.

Forget advertising, rope in cables. Olympia & York — at present trying to sort out its parlous finances — is taking London taxi drivers to the top of Canary Wharf in the hope that their spiel to passengers on the development might prove an asset.

# What about the workers?

Bernard Levin  
asks how Russia  
can change  
without essential  
labour skills

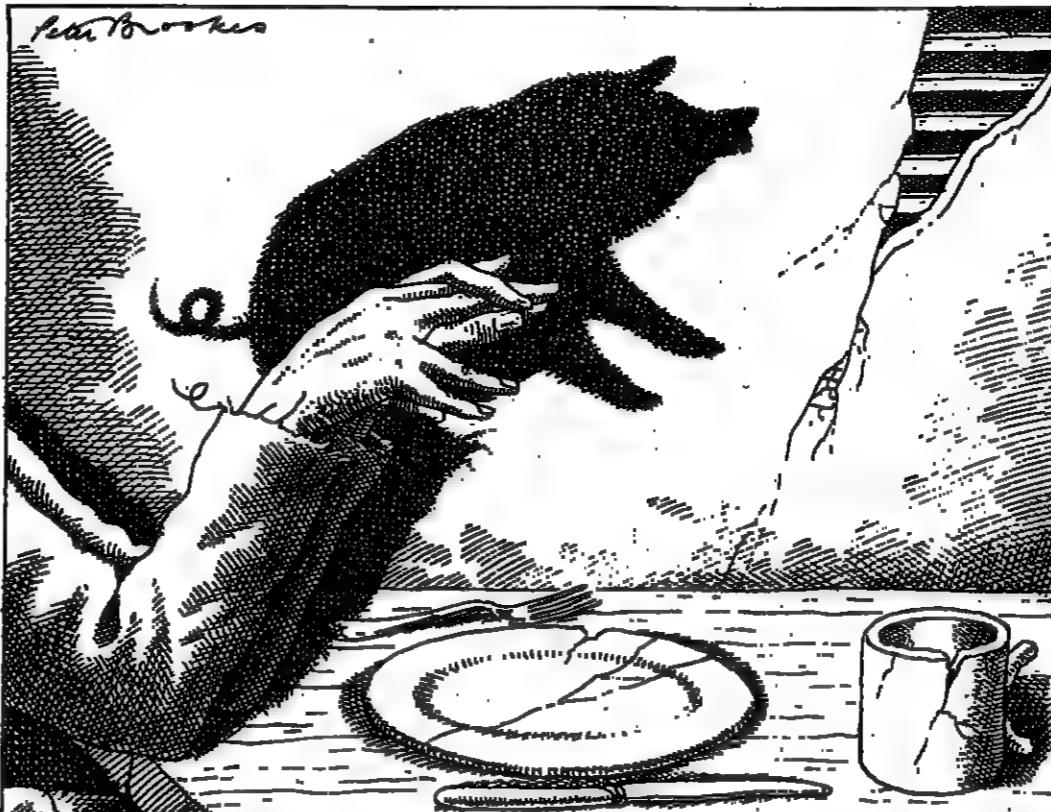
The extraordinarily touching letter from Russia that was printed on our letters page a few weeks ago epitomised the dilemma of the people of what was the Soviet Union. The internecine fighting still raging is full of horrors, and the shortages of the simplest materials, even food, is worse still, considering the need and the urgency. (Mark my words, one of these days Professor Hobsbawm will pop up and say, in *The Guardian* and at length, that, yes of course Stalin had faults — for instance, he would never bother to trim his straggly moustache — but at least he kept the country together and avoided famine.)

Yet in the long run the greatest difficulty may not be typified by that letter, in which the writer, who wanted to start a business and had no idea how to do so, begged for information on the subject.

The 18th century was greatly given to discussing an intriguing question: if a man blind from birth was in the habit of handling a sphere, a pyramid and a cube, all of much the same size, and then gained his sight, would he be able to tell which object was which without touching? Eventually it happened.

That is the crux of what all the Russian republics: they can see the sphere, the pyramid and the cube, but they have no way to distinguish between them. Nor is the problem of creating a business the worst and most urgent difficulty; the foundation of the economic shambles lies below such matters, necessary though a remedy is. The truth is that the people who live in the Soviet Union do not know what work is.

That is not some fancy paradox but the literal truth. Indeed, it was a kind of mantra: "They pretend to



pay us, and we pretend to work". We all knew the stories — true, every one — about the shoe factory that turned out left shoes only; the bicycle factory that bolted every pair of handlebars on back to front; the factory with new machinery installed, in which the workers toiled through the night to dismantle it entirely, each taking a piece, if only a slab of metal with no useful function, in case it could one day be sold. After all, it was the Soviet Union which invented the "perhaps bag", a string container that housewives carried everywhere because "perhaps" there might be something to buy.

Why do you suppose, before the collapse, that visitors to Moscow were offered black-market currency at a rouble rate discounted by a hundred to one? Because there was nothing to buy with the rubles, however many there were, and only the foreign-currency shops had anything to sell. A country in which there is no

incentive will do nothing: nothing was what the people of the Soviet Union duly did.

And now they must work,

and do not know how. A vignette from a reporter of *The Los Angeles Times* in Moscow sets the scene:

Every day, Moscow's budding mercantile class flock to the pedestrian passage to hawk its wares — boxes of Indian tea, cheap silverware, shoddy denim clothes from Egypt, Soviet-made stereo equipment, macaroni, a frozen pike poster of Samantha Fox (*Oh God! Oh Montreal!*), a pair of shoes. The would-be customers or just Muscovites trying to get from one place to another, must force their way between parallel lines more than 100 feet long of people who hold aloft the items for sale as though they were treasured kiosks.

But that is little more than an exchange and mart; and the problem will not necessarily be solved because Moscow's first sex shop has just opened, under the name of *The Intimacy Store-Salon*.

notebook to an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum marking the tenth anniversary of the campaign.

Not even Mrs Thacher, who chaired the meetings, has seen the neat notes, in pencil or green ink, that were Lewin's *aide-memoire* at the twice-daily meetings.

Lewin says: "I took notes so I knew exactly what I was going to tell the war cabinet. The book contains the cryptic notes I took at the time of the speculation over whether the task force was carrying nuclear weapons or not. You will not be able to tell from the notes whether we did or we didn't. And I am not telling you now."

Cecil Parkinson, a member of the war cabinet, says of Lewin: "Even when he was bringing us bad news from that notebook he was immensely reassuring. I was barely even conscious that he referred to notes. It will be fascinating to see what he had written."

## Taking flight

LABOUR's well-oiled campaign slipped a little on Friday during John Smith's visit to Ipswich to promote Labour's plans to create jobs. The shadow chancellor was due to make a grand entrance by



## Notes for a war

CRYPTIC notes about the battle for the Falklands, used by the chief of the defence staff to brief the war cabinet, go on public show for the first time next week. Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin has lent the



## THE ORANGE CARD

The next parliament promises to be a great opportunity for the Celtic fringe. No longer content to be bought off with huge subventions of public money, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland seem likely on April 9 to reject more emphatically than ever before the "colonial" rule from Westminster and demand a more specific say in their own government. Only Northern Ireland has previously enjoyed anything like partial autonomy. That was taken from it with the collapse of the power-sharing initiative in 1974. Could 1992 see a return from direct rule to some form of local democratic rule?

Nothing concentrates the political mind on such questions quite so much as the prospect of a hung parliament, and nowhere more directly than in Ulster. Already statements from both the Unionist parties have indicated an awareness of their imminent significance. If the Tories emerge as the largest party but still short of an overall majority, they will have little choice but either to invite the Ulster Unionists to state their terms or to dare the same group to do its worst. The Unionists must equally judge whether tacit support for a Tory government, however distasteful some of its policies, is not preferable to putting in the Labour Party, with its even more distasteful policies.

Already, Tory signals have been sent across the Irish Sea that if this day ever arrives, the Unionists should not be too greedy. Answering signals have come back that the message has been heard. A parliamentary alliance with the nine-member Official Unionists, the independent James Kilfedder and Ian Paisley's three Democratic Unionist MPs would be a difficult juggling act. But though the Unionists represent a faction in a deeply divided society, a temporary and informal arrangement need not be discreditable for the Tories. A finite period of mutual dependence between mainland Tories and their estranged Ulster cousins could even prove the catalyst of real change.

The British interest lies in a new democratic administration in Northern Ireland.

## RECOVERY IN PROPERTY

Two unrelated incidents came together last week to create an impression of impending doom in the commercial property market. Olympia & York were forced to stitch together an emergency package with their bankers. At the same time, Heron Corporation announced that its debt of £1.3 billion will require refinancing. City bears claim that these and other present property difficulties are worse than those of 1974-75, which briefly threatened to destroy not just property companies, but much of the financial system.

The two companies at present in the news are different. Olympia & York's problems stem more from North America than from Britain. Here the company is vulnerable because of a single office development, Canary Wharf, and the difficulty of transporting people to and from its isolated East End site. Heron holds industrial rather than office property, and its travails are more the fault of bad luck than bad management.

But the plight of these two, and of the other fallen giants, have fundamental causes in common. The demand for property has been fractured by recession, in Britain and elsewhere. High interest rates bear hard on an industry that is capital-intensive and, in some cases, highly geared. The government's uniform business rate means that an empty property can cost a developer £15 a square foot. With 13 million of 70 million square feet of space in the City empty, and rents down 25 per cent from their peak, the pipes are squeaking.

The consequences for the banks are serious. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, wisely warned of reckless lending to property companies as early as May 1987. But when bankers' noses sniff the perfume of profit, their ears cease to listen. Bank loans to property companies

## CAMFORD COMPARISONS

The news that independent researchers have demonstrated that Oxford is a better university than Cambridge will come as no surprise to Oxonians. They have been saying so for centuries. There needs no social scientist, come from a computer lab, to tell us this. As the Brasenose admissions tutor told the candidate who was worried she might not get the necessary A-levels: "Never mind: there's always Cambridge."

The rivalry between Oxford and Cambridge runs deep in English idiosyncrasy. Oxford's image of itself is of floral waistcoats, political sophistication and style; Cambridge is jeans, test tubes and inconclusive conversations about the meaning of life. Oxford is Cavalier and produces prime ministers, Cambridge is Roundhead and indoctrinates the Inland Revenue. At Oxford the school of modern history begins with the fall of Constantinople and Anglo-Saxon lies at the root of a degree in English literature; Cambridge is a science park and structuralist decomposition of the modern novel.

These ancient myths and prejudices are not in fact what the social scientists (from the universities of Sussex and Kent) have been measuring for the past five years. Their work, to be published in May and proclaimed as the first comparative study of the two senior English universities for 30 years, is concerned with the modern shibboleth of market forces. It is said to demonstrate that Oxford attracts more research grants, is less dependent on government money, and is years ahead of Cambridge in reorganising itself on professional managerial lines, as approved by the schools of business studies.

The heresy that you can quantify the value of education by monetary inputs is as

with some Catholic involvement and with as much devolution from Westminster as possible. All Irish interests likely to take part in post-election talks agree on these objectives. Confirmed violence generates too much communal bitterness for this community to be acknowledged publicly: all previous searches for a magic formula have foundered on sectarian fear of compromise. Because of that, a British government will sooner or later have to impose the best devolution package it can devise.

John Major has already stated that a straightforward demand from the Unionists for the "removal" of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, as a condition for their support in parliament, would be unacceptable. In this he was right. Such removal may be the Unionists' ambition, but it is not marked non-negotiable and is quite capable of being judged. The Anglo-Irish Agreement should be replaced by a "wider British-Irish Agreement", say the Unionists in their manifesto.

The vagueness of these concepts is encouraging. There may be some unfreezing of the Unionists' position here at last.

Mr Major's offer would appear to be to put the Anglo-Irish Agreement "on the table" in the all-party talks promised after the election. There may be a nod and wink that the Tories will talk to the new Irish prime minister about altering those symbolic aspects of the Anglo-Irish Agreement which Unionists find so offensive, while keeping the functional aspects working.

This may not seem much, but the Unionists must make their calculations with one eye on the alternatives. If they bring down the Tories, they will have to deal with Labour. Peter Brooke or any likely alternative Tory secretary of state will look a better prospect to Northern Ireland's embittered Protestants than Kevin McNamara, Labour's likely choice. Fanciful perhaps, but a Tory-led hung parliament could be the one hope of unjamming Northern Ireland's politics. If that might in turn end one of Westminster's worst legacies from the 1970s and 80s, it would be an achievement indeed.

## Why scientists have quit Britain

From the Chairman of British Scientists Abroad and others

Sir, As members of British Scientists Abroad we are following the election in Britain very closely. We would like, through your columns, to comment on one of the key issues of the campaign — whether to borrow for personal tax cuts or public investment — from the point of view of research scientists and engineers working abroad.

John Major, in an interview on the *Walder* programme on March 22 and on other occasions, has argued that tax cuts are the way to give young people the incentive to stay and work in Britain, and that tax increases on higher incomes would drive professionals abroad and thereby induce a "brain drain".

In fact, over the last decade there has been a steady "drain" of many of Britain's talented scientists and engineers to various parts of the world, above all the United States. In our organisation alone there are almost 2,000 expatriate scientists, ranging from some of Britain's most distinguished and senior scientists, including Fellows of the Royal Society, to junior scientists who have left the country frustrated by the lack of research opportunities. Many have expressed a desire to return if conditions were to improve.

Most of those scientists and engineers have left Britain to work abroad not because of the tax regime but because higher education and research as a whole has been scientifically undervalued and neglected over the past 13 years. Neither investment in research nor investment in people has been sustained at competitive levels. The result is that conditions for productive and successful work are more readily found abroad than in the UK.

Britain still has some of the world's best scientists and researchers; until it has a government that under-

stands their true motivation, and is prepared to demonstrate a real commitment to investment in science, it will never restore their morale nor turn back the brains that have been lost.

Yours faithfully,

JORDAN RAFF, Chairman,  
British Scientists Abroad,  
University of California  
(Biochemistry and Biophysics).

KIM BARRETT, UC San Diego (Medicine),  
PETER BRAUDWAHN, Stanford University,  
(Mechanical Engineering),

STEPHEN DELANEY, University of Queensland  
(Molecular Biology and Biotechnology).

MICHAEL DUFF, Texas A & M University (Physics),

MATTHEW FREEMAN, UC Berkeley (Molecular and Cell Biology),

MARTHA GRABER, UC San Francisco (Pharmaceutical Chemistry),

GREG HALLEWELL, Centre de Physique des Particules de Marseille, ADRIAN HAYDAY, Yale University (Immunobiology), RICHARD HYNES, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Center for Cancer Research),

ANGUS LAMOND, Heidelberg (European Molecular Biology Laboratory),

NIALL MATEER, University of California (Office of the President),

TIM MITCHISON, UC San Francisco (Pharmacology),

KIM NASHMYTH, Vienna (Institute of Molecular Pathology),

ERIC SHOOTER, Stanford University Medical School (Neurobiology),

ANNE TREISMAN, UC Berkeley (Psychology),

TREVOR WILLIAMS, Yale University (Biology),

University of California, San Francisco, California 94143.

March 25.

## Crystal Palace park

From the Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission

Sir, Occasionally it may be justified to finance the restoration of an historic designed park by the insertion of a new building into it. To succeed without spoiling the park, such a building and its ancillary car parks and service areas need to be sited in a way which respects the spatial integrity of the design of the original park, its composition of open spaces and distant rural views. If this is achieved, there is no reason why the new building should not be a fine 20th century work of art in its own right.

An example currently being considered is Crystal Palace, where parts of Paxton's park have survived the famous building for which it was laid out in 1852-7. It seems eminently sensible to erect a new building on the same site as its long-destroyed predecessor.

Nuclear accidents

From Mr John H. Dean

Sir, Whilst not wishing to detract from the force of the letter (March 25) from the Director of the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, in which he speculates on the consequences of the St Petersburg nuclear accident, I look forward to the day when you will publish a letter from some mythical Director of the Medical Campaign Against Motor Vehicles (which so far have killed 17 million people, saying: "How many accidents, and they will continue to occur, do we need before all motor vehicle usage is shut down and the best scientific brains we have are assembled to find out if the motor-vehicle genie, or most of it, can be stuffed back in the bottle which, with the benefit of hindsight, our leaders were so unwise as to uncork?"

Yours sincerely,

J. H. DEAN,  
94 Northover Road,  
Westbury on Trym, Bristol, Avon.  
March 25.

## Mortgage arrears

From Ms Sarah Jenkins

Sir, Consumer advice on precipitous repossession by mortgage lenders (Rachel Kelly's article, Life & Times, March 18) although crucial is only one part of the solution: the major shift has to be structural.

My proposal in "Repossession: a fresh look at mortgage lending" is for a House Buyers' Council, which would be responsible not only for consumer information and protection but also for market efficiency. It would operate on the basis of a code elaborated by lenders, much as the Council of Mortgage Lenders elaborates guidelines for its membership. The difference would be that the House Buyers' Council's code would embrace all mortgage lenders rather than just those with CML membership, would include input from the major consumer organisations, and would have statutory force.

This would appear to be the only mechanism for ensuring that the best practice by mortgage lenders becomes general practice.

Yours sincerely,

SARAH JENKINSON,  
Catholic Housing Aid Society,  
189a Old Brompton Road, SW5.  
March 20.

Business letters, page 21

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## State of dentistry and patients' teeth

From Professor G. B. Winter

Sir, The statement in your leader ("Decay of the dentist", March 25) that "children today are virtual strangers to cavities and fillings" is wrong. Such good fortune does not apply to approximately 20 per cent of British children who still have relatively high levels of dental disease.

Many of these children are to be found amongst the families of low socio-economic groups in our major cities.

London has a particular problem at the moment, for not only does it have a discernible population of socially deprived children with high levels of dental disease but it also has the lowest take-up rate of young children now being cared for by NHS general dental practitioners in England and Wales on a capitalisation basis. The latter system was inaugurated in 1990 and provides an annual fee for the dental care of children in the general dental service.

At the end of December 1991, for children aged three to five years, figures from the Dental Practice Board show that for the City and east London only 32 per cent were registered with a dentist, 34 per cent in Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster and 38 per cent in Camden and Islington. Comparative figures from other large cities are 66 per cent in Leeds, 61 per cent in Manchester and 53 per cent in Coventry.

Yours faithfully,  
G. E. SWAN,  
23 Dean Street,  
Aberdare, Mid-Glamorgan.  
March 25.

From Mr G. D. J. Rhodes

Sir, The government is proud of its record of privatisation but seems "fix" to speak the truth about NHS dental treatment for paying adults. It has already privatised the system.

Patients are paying 75 per cent of the cost of total funding, not just of actual treatment — practice equipment, staff, etc., all come out of these fees and there is no central funding of practice overheads. The government is happy to call a public industry private when it has put 51 per cent of its shares in the people's hands. Why the nonsense about "NHS" dental care?

For the vast majority of the population who cannot afford full private fees the only way forward lies in low-cost insurance schemes, providing top-quality treatment for the patient and giving the practitioner the security to budget for his equipment.

The negotiating committee of the British Dental Association still harken to the past — hence their acceptance of the new NHS contract over the heads of the vast majority of practitioners who voted against it in a secret ballot. Could this madness

planning for its future use.

I do understand that the London Residential Body, which controls County Hall, has a duty to obtain the best possible price — but at what price? Have those responsible for such a philistine decision no sense of balancing money against a sense of civic and national pride?

The efforts of the London School of Economics to acquire this size seem to me wholly admirable and in tune with the needs of society. The LSE could be in there and running within months, rather than the years it would take to tear apart County Hall to make it habitable for other purposes.

The opportunity for this famous seat of learning to expand and provide for thousands of students into the next century surely far outweighs the need for yet another hotel.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN MCLEOD,  
Pine Ridge, Pine Coombe,  
Shirley Hills, Croydon, Surrey.  
March 25.

one is excluded from consideration for promotion and women (including two of the part-timers) hold five of the nine senior posts.

These arrangements work admirably. Women lawyers who want a fair deal throughout their working lives might well consider that they would be better off in the government legal service.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MCKENZIE,  
Registrar of Criminal Appeals  
and Master of the Crown Office,  
Royal Courts of Justice,  
Strand, WC2.

March 25.

Mozart by that founder member of the Celists' Liberation Movement, King Friedrich Wilhelm II of Prussia.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES CHALMERS PARK,  
Rivelin Hillside Road,  
Pinner Hill, Middlesex.  
March 24.

From Mr Neil C. Dewhurst

Sir, I shall be looking out for K 364 SIN (Sinfonie Concertante in E flat), K 620 MAG (Die Zauberflöte) and K 621 TIT (La Clemenza di Tito) among many which have given me considerable pleasure in bicentenary year.

Yours faithfully,  
NEIL C. DEWHURST,  
50 Banmores Road,  
Great Waldingfield,  
Sudbury, Suffolk.  
March 25.

Catholic teaching

From Mr Kenneth P. Platt

Sir, Roman Catholics who have been awaiting the publication of the new *Universal Catechism* for some months now will be somewhat taken aback at your report (March 26) that the newly appointed auxiliary bishop in north London has "disclosed" what has been public knowledge for some years now. They will be more than taken aback at the suggestion in your headline ("Pope revises Catholic guidelines on morality") that the Pope intends to revise Catholic moral teaching, for of course he neither has the desire nor the authority to do that.

Further, of course, if the Pope in fact sees the Vatican response to the final report of ARIC 1 (Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission) as a step forward, it can only be in so far as that response provides a sounder basis for further inter-Church discussions than has hitherto been provided, calling for elucidation of ambiguities in the report and clarifying the Roman stance as being that so clearly defined in Canon John McNamara's letter (February 13).

Yours sincerely,

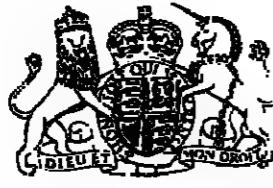
KENNETH PLATT,  
47 Heathurst Road,  
Sandstead, Surrey.  
March 26.

Large salaries

From Mr J. R. Anderson

Sir, Regarding the discussion of the large salary increase of the chairman of British Gas (letters, March 27), I suggest that the only people who are in a position to impose restraint in such cases are the institutional shareholders, and that they would be well advised to exercise that responsibility without delay in the present instance.

Yours sincerely,



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
March 28: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, today attended the Staffordshire Regiment's Annual Regimental Officers' luncheon at the Officers' Mess, the Dale Barracks, Chester, and was received by the Colonel of the Regiment (Major-General Ian Preer) and the Commanding Officer of the First Battalion (Lieutenant-Colonel Nigel Alderman).

KENSINGTON PALACE  
March 29: Princess Alice, Duchess

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, Patron of the Home Farm Trust, will visit phase 1 of the HFT London Scheme, 14 Warwick Road, Bishops Stortford, at 11.00 and 38 South Road, at 11.45.

Princess Margaret, as President of Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide, will open the new educational block at Meath School, Otershaw, at 2.30.

## Birthdays today

Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, 65; Mr Warren Beatty, actor, 55; Lord Brown-Wilkinson, 62; Miss Joyce Carey, actress, 94; Mr Eric Clapton, guitarist, 47; Mr J.F. Coates, naval architect, 70; Mr George Eason, chief constable, Dumfries and Galloway, 50; Professor Sir Ernst Gombrich, OM, former director, Warburg Institute, 83; Sir John Gray, marine biologist, 74; Mr Rolf Harris, entertainer, 62; Mr J.S. Jennings, a managing-director, Royal Dutch/Shell Group, 55; Sir Ian MacLennan, charman, Tesco, 55; Lord Rayner, 66; Mr Tom Sharpe, novelist, 54; the Rev David Staple, General Secretary of the Free Church Federal Council, 71; the Countess of Sudbrook, 71; Lord Tanqueray, 82; General Sir Richard Tunnock, 84; Sir John Wells, former MP, 67; Professor A.J. Zuckerman, dean, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, 60.

## Latest wills

Latest wills include (not before tax paid):  
Mr Reginald Mervyn Dyer Fisher, of Sidmouth, Devon £539,053.  
Mrs Annie Mabel Fergus, of Tedworth, Surrey £744,523.  
Mr Maurice Alman James Fawer, of Castlebar Hill, London W3 £300,041.

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KENSINGTON PALACE  
March 29: Princess Alice, Duchess

## Dinners

Society of Old Framlinghamians  
The annual dinner of the Society of Old Framlinghamians was held on Saturday at Framlingham College, Suffolk. Mr J.H. Randall, president, was in the chair. Miss Ruth Elwood and Mr J. Studd also spoke. During dinner Mr Randall presented a set of bowls to Mr Peter Arbon to mark his retirement and service to the college's junior school, Brandsthorpe Hall. Mr J. Miller, headmaster of the college, was among those present.

## Service dinner

HQ Second Infantry Division  
General Sir Peter Innes, Chief of the General Staff, was guest of honour at a dinner held on Saturday in York to mark the disbandment of the Headquarters of the Second Infantry Division. Major-General Michael Walker, General Officer Commanding, was host. Among those present were:

General Sir Charles Gurkin, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Wilkes, Lieutenant-General Sir Jeremy Mardon, Lieutenant-General Sir John Rose, Lieutenant-General Sir Alexander Rossell, Major-General Michael Rose, Major-General Sir John Taylor and the Very Rev John Southgate.

## Reception

English-Speaking Union  
Lady Alexander of Weedon was the guest of honour at a reception held on Saturday at Westminster School to mark the national final of the English-Speaking Union's competition for schools. Mr David Thorp, director-general, welcomed the guests.



Mr Garry Trevellyn-Templeton was married on Saturday to Miss Nicola Murphy at the Chapel Royal, Tower of London, in a service conducted by the Bishop of London, Dr David Hope. The bride's father, Jerry Murphy, is resident canon at the chapel. The reception was held in the White Tower

## Anniversaries

BIRTHS: *Malmonides*, philosopher and physician, Cordoba, Spain, 1135; *Francisco de Goya*, painter, Fuendetodos, Spain, 1746; Anna Sibylle, writer, Great Yarmouth, 1820; Charles Booth, shipowner and sociologist, Liverpool, 1840; Paul Verlaine, poet, Metz, France, 1844; Vincent van Gogh, painter, Zundert, Netherlands, 1853; Sean O'Casey, dramatist, Dublin, 1880.

DEATHS: *Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban*, military engineer, Paris, 1707; William Hunter, obstetrician and medical writer, London, 1783; George (Beau) Brummell, man of fashion, Paris, France, 1840; Rudolph Steiner, scientist, founder of anthroposophy, Dornach, Switzerland, 1925; Leon Blum, premier of France 1936-37, Joux-en-Josas, 1950; James Cagney, actor, 1986.

A terrorist bomb killed Alrey Neave, MP, in the House of Commons car park, 1979.

Clergy appointments  
The Rev John Herbert, Rector, Aitlock and Lulsey and Suckley and Leigh and Bransford, and Rural Dean of Marley and Worcester West to be Vicar of Hallow, and Rural Dean of Marley and Worcester West (London).

The Rev Ian Holdcroft, Vicar, Almondbury and Pries-in-charge, Oldham, and Bishop of Luton-on-Swenn (Bristol).

The Rev Nicholas Howe, Curate, St Chad's, Lichfield (Lichfield); to be Vicar, Holy Trinity in the Leids City Team Ministry (Lipps).

The Rev Andrew Heskett, Chaplain to the Royal Navy, to be Vicar, St Anne's, Brixton (Southwark).

The Rev Stephen Oram, RAF Chaplain to be Priest-in-charge, St Anne's, Brixton (Southwark).

The Rev Colin Patching, Curate, St Peter's, Didsbury to be Priest-in-charge, Stevenson, W. Miln (Oxford).

The Rev Nell Llewellyn, Rector, Docking w. The Bichams and Stanhoe w. Barwick (Norwich); to be Chaplain, St George's, Ypres

and Talbot House, Poperinghe, Belgium (Europe).  
The Rev Paul Lock, Assistant Curate, Up Holland (Liverpool); to be Assistant Curate, Sefton Peter and Paul, Teddington and SS Michael and George, Fulwell (London).

The Rev Paul Lomas, Assistant Curate, St Margaret, Hollinwood; to be Rector, Church of the Holy Family, Farnsworth (Manchester).

The Rev Christopher Morgan, Vicar, St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Addington, Southwark; to be Vicar, All Saints, Maidstone w. St Philip w. St Stephen, Tovil (Canterbury).

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The Rev Stephen Oram, RAF Chaplain to be Priest-in-charge, St Anne's, Brixton (Southwark).

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The Rev John Porter, Rector, Chapel Chorlton, Macclesfield and Whitmore; to be Team Rector, Chapel Chorlton, Macclesfield and Hexton (St Albans).

Wedgesfield Team Ministry (Lichfield).

The Rev James Stanton, Curate, Knutsford; to be Vicar, St Luke's in the Salford Team Ministry (Ripon).

The Rev Adrian Stringer, Assistant Curate, St Matthew, Barrow (Carlisle); to be Team Vicar, St Thomas, Chequerbent (Manchester).

The Rev David Thomas, Team Rector, the Canvey Island Team Ministry; to be Rector, Wivenhoe (Chelmsford).

The Rev Andrew Wade, Team Vicar, Probus, Ladock, Grampound w. Creed and St Erme; to be Vicar, Constantine (Truro).

The Rev Stephen Weston, Incumbent, Gate group (Stoke Goldington); to be also Rural Dean of Newport (Oxford).

The Rev Peter Whittaker, Vicar, Leigham Buzzard w. Eggington, Hockliffe and Billington; to be Rector, Barton-le-Cley w. Higham Gobion and Hexton (St Albans).

## Church news

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## Marriages

The Hon T.P.L. Chaloner and Miss K.E. Thomas

The marriage took place on Saturday at Christ Church, Constantia, Cape Town, South Africa, of the Hon Perry Chaloner, elder son of Lord and Lady Chaloner, of Guisborough, Cleveland, to Miss Karen Thomas, only daughter of Mr Alan Thomas and Mrs Wendy Ogilvie, of Cape Town. The Ven. I. Eve officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Mr M.C.A. Brett and Miss E. Dennis-Pender

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, of Mr Matthew Brett, son of the Hon Christopher Brett and Mrs

Rosie

Rehman.

The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Mr N.J. Cole and Miss J.A. Houghton

The marriage took place on March 28, 1992, in Terling, Essex, of Nicholas Ian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Cole, to Julie Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Houghton.

The honeymoon will be spent abroad.

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## OBITUARIES

## EARL SPENCER

Earl Spencer, LVO, DL, 8th Earl and father of the Princess of Wales, died yesterday aged 68. He was born on January 24, 1924.

SOME men are born famous, others achieve fame, but few have it thrust upon them so forcibly as this amiable peer. His distinction reflected the fame of his immediate family.

Earl Spencer's daughter, Diana, became the Princess of Wales in 1981. It was his department, still affected by a stroke he had sustained three years before, on the day of her marriage to the Prince of Wales on July 29, 1981, that gave him a place in the hearts of the nation. Although weak and still unsteady on his feet, he conducted himself with courage and determination during a long and exhausting day of pageantry which involved him in escorting his daughter up the long aisle of St Paul's Cathedral and standing on the cathedral steps after the ceremony.

Contact with the Royal family was, of course, nothing new to Earl Spencer. In the 1950s he had been an equerry successively to King George VI and the Queen. As such he had accompanied the Queen on the Commonwealth tour which was one of principal features of the early part of her reign.

Other aspects of his family life did not give such unalloyed pleasure as his youngest daughter's marriage. His son, Lord Althorp, soon developed an impetuous public personality of his own and was rarely out of the newspapers. And his second wife, the novelist Barbara Cartland's daughter, Raine, was a powerful figure whose devotion to her husband from their marriage in 1976 never wavered, even if it cost her a fortune.

That this devotion to her husband could be a force for his own good never reconciled her to her stepchildren. She saved her life in 1978 by procuring a new, untested drug to treat his stroke. Her redecoration and aggressive marketing of what might have been a steadily decaying stately home at Althorp in Northamptonshire brought it a new prosperity and dynamism. But this too increased family unhappiness at Lady Spencer's ascendancy, which became desperate as the couple began selling off family heirlooms, sales that reached what many conservationists a crisis in 1991.



Enduring partnership: Earl and Countess Spencer among their art treasures at Althorp

Edward John ("Johnny") Spencer was the only son of parents whose families had long served as couriers. Known as Lord Althorp until his father died in 1975, he was educated at Eton and Sandhurst and subsequently joined the Royal Scots Greys. Though his military career was brief, he was mentioned in dispatches during the second world war.

From 1947 to 1950 he was ADC to the Governor of South Australia. In 1950 he became equerry to George VI, continuing in the post until 1954 under the present Queen. He joined the Queen's Commonwealth tour of 1953-54 as equerry and Acting Master of the Household. A keen amateur cameraman, he filmed many of the tour's events. On his return to Britain he showed the film around Norfolk with a running commentary of his own, raising £2,500 for charity.

In June 1954 he married the Hon Frances Roche, daughter of the 4th Lord Fermoy, and subsequently settled down to farm near Sandringham. In Northamptonshire, where Althorp is situated, he served as High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant. In Norfolk he sat on the bench and the local council. A more ornate

post was his chairmanship of the Schoolmistresses' and Governesses' Benevolent Institution from 1962, though it was appropriate in view of his youngest daughter's later employment at a Finsbury kindergarten.

In 1969 the Althorps were divorced. He obtained custody of the children and struggled to bring them up alone. His second marriage with Raine, divorced wife of Lord Dartmouth, followed their shared involvement in European Heritage Year in 1975.

Lord and Lady Spencer — it became impossible to regard their activities separately — threw themselves energetically into showing Althorp to the public. The guide book was a joint effort; his remarkably professional photographs, her effusive text. They had already collaborated on a pamphlet entitled *What is Our Heritage?* with colleagues in 1975. They installed a wine mart at Althorp and introduced "own-label" wines. A particular bid was made to attract Japanese package tours and conferences. The exercise was reminiscent of some of the Duke of Bedford's earlier commercial efforts at Woburn. While it had its purist detractors, such entrepreneurship is at least one way of ensuring that such great houses can survive in private hands.

But death duties as well as Althorp's upkeep remained a problem. The Spencers sold valuable paintings and other possessions, challenging those who believe that every house must be forced to retain all its existing works of art, irrespective of financial shortages. Art historians rate the Althorp collection highly, but it remains one of the finest in private hands and Earl Spencer's sales can hardly be described as catastrophic.

Earl Spencer's eldest daughter, Sara Lavinia, married, in 1980, Neil Edmund McCorquodale; his second daughter, Jane, married, in 1978, Sir Robert Fellowes, KCVO, CB, Private Secretary to the Queen. His son and heir, who now succeeds him, married in 1989, the former model Victoria Lockwood; they have one daughter.

## JAMES WEBB

James Edwin Webb, who managed the space programme that led to the first manned landing on the moon in 1969, died of heart failure in Washington on March 27 aged 85. He was born in Granville County, North Carolina, on October 7, 1906.

WHEN President John F. Kennedy vowed, on taking office in 1961, that "this country is dedicated to landing men on the moon and returning them safely within the decade", it is doubtful that he knew what he was promising. The task was immense. In terms of complexity and the exploration of unknown scientific frontiers, there had been nothing like it since the Manhattan Project produced the first atomic bomb. James Webb was the man appointed to fulfil the promise.

At the time Webb was a private businessman, working as a director and assistant to the president of an Oklahoma oil company. His qualifications to become head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration seemed minimal. He had, it was true, been in government service before. President Truman had named him as director of the Bureau of the Budget from 1946 to 1949, and he had served as under-secretary of state to Dean Acheson from 1949 to 1952. But with the coming of the Eisenhower administration he yielded to the American system of political patronage and retired to the corporate boardroom.

He was a lawyer by education, the son of a rural schools superintendent. His only connection with science and aviation had been a brief spell as a pilot in the Marine Corps from 1930 to 1932, and work as personnel director and treasurer of the Sperry Gyroscope Company in the immediate pre-war years. He had graduated from George Washington University and been admitted to the District of Columbia bar in 1936.

With America still in a state of shock following the surprise launching of the Soviet satellite by the Soviet Union in 1957, Webb served on the President's Council on Equal Employment Opportunities and headed the Frontiers of Science Foundation. He was a member of numerous boards and committees, ranging from McDonnell Aircraft and the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies to the National Civil Service League.

James Webb is survived by Patsy, his wife of 53 years, a son and a daughter.

## NANCY WALKER

Nancy Walker, American television actress, died of lung cancer at her home in Studio City, California, on March 25 aged 69. She was born in Philadelphia on May 10, 1922.

NANCY Walker had a talent to make people laugh which showed itself very early in life. Born Anna Myrtle Swoyer to vaudeville performers, she slept in the wings while her mother and father were on stage. At the age of ten months she crawled into the spotlight and stole the show. From that point there was no looking back.

Her choice of a stage name was almost accidental. In 1942, securing her first Broadway role in the Richard Rodgers comedy *Best Foot Forward*, she was introduced at the audition as Miss Walker. Rodgers and his producer George Abbott had been expecting a singer named Helen Walker to audition for a minor five-line role. But their minds were changed when Nancy belted out a song *Bounce Me Brother With a Solid Four*. She not only got the part but it was re-written into a leading role. The 19 year old became an instant success and from that time on her name was Walker.

She spent the first 30 years of her acting career on the New York stage and claimed that she never knew she could be a comedian until she started getting laughs in *Best Foot Forward*. Many comedy

parts followed, including starring roles in *On the Town*, *Pal Joey*, and *Look, Ma, I'm Dancing*, and several Hollywood films made under a seven year MGM contract.

With her long face and red hair, Nancy Walker was never a ravishing beauty; but she had the talent to stay in the public eye for five decades. Nor was her ability confined to acting. She became one of the very few women to direct and act on Broadway and in television.

In 1956 she made her Broadway directing debut with *UTBU*, starring Thelma Ritter and Tony Randall, and during the 1970s she directed episodes of *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Rhoda*, and *Alf*. Her specialty was playing loud-mouthed housekeepers and mothers-in-law, notably in the television series *Rhoda* and *McMillan and Wife*, both of which earned her Emmy nominations.

Her most recent work was a starring role in the Fox television sitcom *True Colours*, the last episode of which was completed just before her death. Many American viewers, however, will remember her best as Rosie the waitress, forever wiping up after careless customers in an advertisement for a well known brand of paper towels; she saw nothing to be ashamed of in commercial appearances.

Nancy Walker is survived by her husband, David Craig, and one daughter.

## JOHN BABINGTON, GC

John Herbert Babington, GC, OBE, former bomb-disposal specialist and headmaster, died on March 24 aged 81. He was born on February 5, 1911.

JOHN Babington was a strong, quiet man taken by the demands of war from the teaching of physics to its practice in disarming unexploded bombs. His persistent courage in disarming dangerous booby-trapped bombs which had already claimed the lives of colleagues earned him the George Cross in 1940 and appointment as OBE (military) in 1943.

Babington was born in Tai Chow Foo, China, the son of medical missionary parents. On his return to Leicester he attended the Wyggeston School. Declining to follow the family traditions of church or medicine, he read physics at St Catherine's College, Cambridge. The war found him teaching physics at King's College School, Wimbledon. Although his family was devoid of maritime tradition he volunteered for the submarine service but was rejected, presumably because of his great height (6ft 3in). Instead he opted for a quiet life in bomb disposal.

His most dangerous operation was a mine which had brought Chatham Dockyard to a standstill in December 1940. It was believed to be protected by an anti-handling device of a kind which had already killed another officer. The impetus of the mine had driven it 16 feet underground. Babington, by this stage temporary acting sub-lieutenant, RNR, volunteered to deal with it and prepared the fuse for removal. It could have detonated at any time. The line which he attached to the fuse to remove it broke. Eventually he had to be lowered three times into the 16ft pit before his attempts succeeded and the bomb could be lifted and taken away.

He spent the rest of the war in dangerous tinkering and teaching such skills to others, and was appointed military OBE in 1943, once more for "coolness and courage in operations involving great risk to himself".

After the war he returned to education as assistant education officer in Hertfordshire, becoming headmaster of Diss Grammar School in 1947. In 1951 he became the headmaster of the Royal Hospital School at Holbrook, a magnificent naval establishment, fully equipped with cannon and training mast, but then devoted to the relatively perfunctory academic education of the orphans of ratings of the Royal Navy. His mission to turn it into the substantial educational establishment which it has now become



did not initially find favour with the authorities who libber even at the proviso of facilities and funds. Babington did not win that battle and left in 1955 to become headmaster of Ashlyn's School, Berkhamsted, a secondary modern school which, before its transfer to the county, had been the rural incarnation of the Foundling Hospital's School. As at Holbrook much charitable money had been lavished on splendid architecture; once again his role was to turn buildings into a school. He left it a showpiece comprehensive on his retirement 25 years later.

John Babington's manner was dignified but warm; his speech careful, humorous, even ponderous. A lifelong churchgoer of low church tastes, he was a lay reader for many years. He followed the dictates of conscience with the same logical rigour and puncilio with which he removed fuses from bombs. He never cut corners and never bent rules, sometimes to his considerable disadvantage. He was preserved from sainthood by his belief that his place was with the publican rather than with the Pharisee — a conviction which extended from communion rail to saloon bar. His anger was the more impressive for being rare. Friends and acquaintances he seemed to be of the last gentlemen in England. No-one could recall his ever being rude through lapse or intent; his elaborate courtesy never deserted him.

After the war he returned to education as assistant education officer in Hertfordshire, becoming headmaster of Diss Grammar School in 1947. In 1951 he became the headmaster of the Royal Hospital School at Holbrook, a magnificent naval establishment, fully equipped with cannon and training mast, but then devoted to the relatively perfunctory academic education of the orphans of ratings of the Royal Navy. His mission to turn it into the substantial educational establishment which it has now become

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He retired to playing golf and enthusiasm over rugby. His wartime career fiddling with bombs lived on in building gadgets, making jewellery and amassing tools of every description; scientific interests which recalled the PhD which circumstances had prevented his following before the war. For more than ten years he served on the committee of the VC and GC Association.

His wife Muriel died in 1990; he is survived by a son and two daughters.

## Astronomy

## The night sky in April

By MICHAEL J. HENDRIE  
ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY is a morning star throughout the month but being south of the Sun remains low in the sky and will not be readily visible. It reaches greatest western elongation (27 degrees) on the 23rd at 0 magnitude and will be 2 degrees north of Venus on the 5th/6th.

Venus is also a morning star but rises less than an hour before the Sun and even with a brightness of -3.9 magnitude it will be difficult to glimpse as it rises in the eastern sky during morning twilight. The waning crescent Moon is to the north on the 1st.

Mars has brightened to 1.2 magnitude but remains near the eastern horizon rising only an hour before the Sun and will not be visible to the naked eye before June. The Moon is to the north on the 29th.

Jupiter is in Leo, a brilliant -2.3 magnitude evening star throughout April, setting by 03h late in the month. The waxing gibbous Moon is to the south on the 13th.

Saturn is in Capricornus rising by 02h on the 30th. The Moon is nearby on the 26th.

Uranus is in Sagittarius, rising in the south-east soon after mid-

night by the 30th. It is stationary on the 22nd. The last quarter Moon passes only 2 degrees to the north of the 6th magnitude planet on the 23rd/24th.

Neptune is also in Sagittarius and is stationary on the 20th. The 8th magnitude planet will be about 2 degrees to the north of Uranus for much of the year and rising and setting about the same time. The Moon passes less than a degree to the north of Neptune on the 23rd/24th.

The Moon: New Moon, 3d, first quarter, 10d, 10h; full Moon, 17d 05h; last quarter, 24d.

Sunset on the 1st is at 18h 35m and on the 30th at 19h 25m while sunrise is at 05h 35m and 04h 30m on the same dates. Astronomical Twilight ends at 20h 30m and 21h 55m early and late in the month of April.

The celestial equator is immediately above the Earth's equator. For an observer anywhere along the equator, the celestial equator passes through the zenith (overhead). A star's position to the north or south of the celestial equator is called its declination and is measured in degrees from the equator (0 degrees) towards the north pole (90 degrees) or the south pole (-90 degrees). The celestial equator lies along the horizon at the zenith. At the south pole it is the southern sky that can never be seen.

For example at a latitude of 52 degrees north, the equator reaches an altitude above the southern horizon of 90 - 52 = 38 degrees, so any star with a southern declination of -38 degrees will be visible.

In the northern sky our same observer will see the north pole of the sky (Polaris) is less than a degree away from the pole 90 - 38 = 52 degrees above the northern horizon. In other words the altitude of the pole is equal to the latitude of the place of observation, and this applies all over the Earth.

Any star with a declination of more than -38 degrees will never set. Vega just scrapes the horizon at its lowest point with a declination of -39 degrees while Deneb clears the horizon by 5 degrees.

At the Earth's equator the whole of the night sky, both the northern and southern hemispheres can be seen, but at any one moment half of each is below the horizon. At the Earth's north pole only the northern hemisphere can be seen and that is always above the horizon, the southern hemisphere being perpetually below the horizon. The celestial equator lies along the horizon at the zenith. At the south pole it is the northern sky that can never be seen.



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitudes of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning of April. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 degrees west of Greenwich and earlier by a half hour for each 15 degrees east of Greenwich. The diagram is based on the Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes unless otherwise

## APRECIATION

## Georges Delerue

MAY I add a paragraph to your obituary (March 24) of Georges Delerue? Even if he was best known for his film scores, his music for ballet ought not to pass unmentioned, since he fulfilled commissions for companies as important as the Paris Opera (George Skibine's *Conte Crue* in 1959) and the Royal Danish ballet (Flemming Flindt's big, ambitious *Three Musketeers* in 1966).

His best ballet score was for *The Lesson*. Flindt's adaptation into dance of the Ionesco play. First made for Danish

television in 1963, this had its stage premiere at the Opéra Comique in Paris the next year, and has never since been absent from the stage. Productions have included, in Britain, the Scottish Ballet and Northern Ballet Theatre, besides a particularly memorable staging for one of Nureyev's Coliseum seasons when he danced with Natalia Makarova.

The compelling drama of the choreography, especially for the male role, is the explanation of the ballet's great success, but Delerue's vivid, insistently rhythmic score deserves full share of the credit.

John Percival

## Hyperactive boys respond to treatment

## Diet transforms child behaviour

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

RESEARCH carried out at Great Ormond Street children's hospital support the theory that the behaviour of hyperactive children can be affected by diet.

Unpublished details of the study reveal that more than 80 per cent of hyperactive children who responded to a special diet cutting out foods known to cause allergies underwent marked changes in behaviour. The new study supports the findings of previous research at Great Ormond Street which was met with scepticism by the medical profession.

Professor Stephan Strobel, the specialist in paediatric

immunology who led the research, said: "The study shows there is a sub-group of children who do respond to diet in some cases dramatically. More research needs to be done on the reason for this but it does show that in some cases the manic behaviour of the hyperactive child can be transformed into the underlying naughtiness of the normal child."

The two-year study was carried out in two stages: 80 hyperactive children, none of whom was known to have food allergies, were tested to see if they responded to the diet, which cuts out milk, eggs, citrus fruits, colourings,

preservatives, chocolate,

wheat and other known allergens. Those who responded — about a quarter — went on to a series of double-blind tests, where the behavioural change in more than 80 per cent was directly linked to what they ate.

Hyperactivity affects one in 200 children, mainly boys.

The disorder, which can blight the lives of children and their families, typically leads to impulsive behaviour, lack of concentration, aggression, and little sense of personal danger.

Sheida Yeadon's two sons have both been found to be hyperactive. The eldest, 15-year-old Craig, has been in trouble with the police 19 times in two years. He would vandalise the family home and could be violent. Matthew, who is eight, was difficult to control and brimming with energy.

Six months ago, Mrs Yeadon agreed to put her sons on the Great Ormond Street "few foods" diet as part of a pilot study among young offenders in Shipley, West Yorkshire. "The change was remarkable," she says. "Matthew is a totally different person. He reads, which he never did before. He does what he's told and is much calmer and quieter." Craig's bullying and violence also stopped when he was on the diet. He has since gone off it and has re-offended.

Superintendent Peter Bent

of West Yorkshire

constabulary, who set up the project with the National Society for Research into Allergy and Dr Leonard McEwen, a private specialist in food intolerance, believes the results — six out of the nine hyperactive youngsters on the project have not re-offended in the last seven months — provide a useful pointer for dealing with behavioural problems in young criminals.

Dr Eric Taylor, of the Institute of Psychiatry at London's Maudsley hospital, who participated in the Great Ormond Street research,

cautions against putting too much value on treating behavioural problems with diet.

"There are still many unanswered questions and diet will only be one cause among many," he said.

The Great Ormond Street

research and the Shipley

crime prevention project are to be featured on BBC1's QED next month.

## Town with no name is out in the cold

Continued from page 1  
them their special status has collapsed with the end of the Cold War. The defence towns are out in the cold.

Many of Russia's best minds, applied for the past four decades to pushing out the bounds of Soviet science and competing with the West in utter secrecy, must now be bent to quite a different purpose. They must test their products in competition with the rest of the world.

To its few visitors, the compact and the reality of Krasnoyarsk-26 make it appear an élite prison but no less prison-like for that. About 15 miles across, it is surrounded by several rows of high fencing. The entry gate looks like one of the former border checkpoints between East and West Germany. There is even a miniature no man's land and a white notice saying "customs port". A railway line, apparently for goods traffic only, enters at the same place.

In the centre of the surface

city is Soviet communism as it was meant to be. Krasnoyarsk-26 is the tidiest, cleanest, most orderly city I have seen in Russia. Not a scrap of litter pollutes its streets. The quality of building and maintenance is outstanding — it was built and is maintained by soldiers. The snow is neatly cleared. The trees which line the pavements have been pruned with military precision.

Yeltsin flounders, page 12  
Bernard Levin, page 14

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard  
ARTISTICS

**CARTELLINO**  
a. A troupe's feel scroll  
b. An Italian caricaturist  
c. A small cartoon

**PUT**  
a. An indigo pigment  
b. A painted on a palette  
c. Dutch portrait painter

**EMPAQUETAGE**  
a. The Age of Maximus  
b. Chilean Neo-Colourist  
c. Making art out of parcels

**MAQUETTE**  
a. A Belgian Surrealist  
b. Sculptor's model  
c. Paint applied with a knife

Answers on page 16

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-  
work information, 24 hours a day,  
dial 0836 401 followed by the  
appropriate code.

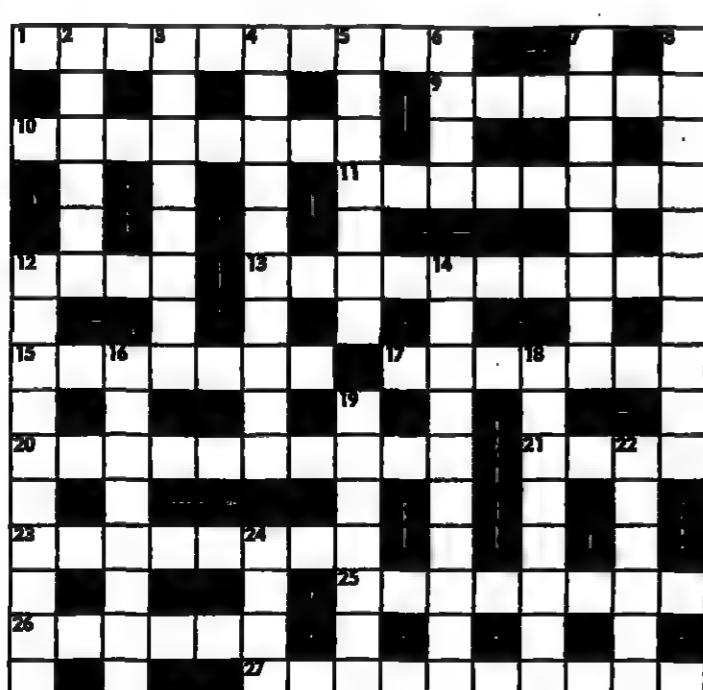
**London & SE**  
C. London (within N & S Circs) 731  
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732  
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733  
M-ways/roads Dartford T423 734  
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735  
M25 London Orbital only 736  
National 737

National motorways 737  
West Country 738  
Wales 739  
Midlands 740  
East Anglia 741  
Central England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per  
minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute  
at all other times.

Concise Crossword, page 11  
Life & Times section

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,879



## ACROSS

1 An opportunist with taking ways (5-5).  
9 Each one houses a bird (6).  
10 Queued, it might appear, for peace (8).  
11 The odd blow may well go to the head (3-5).  
12 A little dress, a rippling piece of material (4).  
13 Such tradesmen get no rest — it's a mistake (10).  
15 Joining a group of players on leave (7).  
17 Pop in a pair the Spanish wear (7).  
20 Measured study (10).  
21 Flyer with a taste for clothes (4).  
23 Openly striking Tories (8). —

25 One can't separate the beer and port (8).  
26 Relations set the point in polite society (6).  
27 Characters quite unaffected by any reversal (10).  
DOWN

2 Disgust at having to return one article and use another (6).  
3 Loathing for a particular form (8).  
4 The jester's criterion (10).  
5 A South-European international leader in bare accommodation (7).  
6 Growing concern (4).  
7 Beasts responsible for the present transport system (8).  
8 A man of great age note, and so well-set-up (10).  
12 Long partnership at the wicket — and the fielder's angle (10).  
14 Outline permission is put in order (10).  
16 Everybody turned to Edward, as intended (8).  
18 Church member is first to come over bearing a seat (8).  
19 A flier may be in a flat spin (7).  
22 Boys beat it (3-3).  
24 Have to struggle for breath, so talk softly (4).

## Answers on page 16

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Midlands 740  
East Anglia 741  
Central England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per  
minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute  
at all other times.

Concise Crossword, page 11  
Life & Times section

PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of  
Saturday's Prize  
Puzzle No 18,878 will  
appear next Saturday.  
The 5 winners will  
receive a Duofold  
fountain pen supplied  
by Parker

Concise Crossword, page 11  
Life & Times section



## Clinton and Brown dip into trouble

FROM JAMIE DETTMER  
IN WASHINGTON

THE American presidential campaign headed into rough waters again as Bill Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, admitted on television he had experimented with marijuanna "a time or two, and I didn't like it". He added: "I didn't inhale, and I didn't try it again." Mr Brown told Mr Clinton to "lay off this stuff

identify and pre-empt any further revelations that may damage his candidacy.

Appearing jointly on CBS with Jerry Brown, his rival for the Democratic nomination, Mr Clinton said that while at Oxford between 1968 and 1970 he had used marijuanna "a time or two, and I didn't like it". He added: "I didn't inhale, and I didn't try it again." Mr Brown told Mr Clinton to "lay off this stuff

... What you did 20 years ago is not relevant." The two men had been asked if they had ever violated state, federal or international law.

Mr Brown found himself embroiled in allegations linking him with a firm that allegedly acted improperly in the AIDS field, undermining his efforts to present himself as the Mr Clean of the race and Mr Clinton as the "scandal-a-day candidate".

"With the new figures showing business failures rising faster now than even in 1991 and that half of company liquidations are in the South-East, the Labour party will this week step up its economic campaign demanding a new deal for small businesses, with John Major the 'unemployment prime minister' who has cost us a million jobs. The Conservatives are guilty of abandoning businesses to their fate."

Election 92, pages 7-11  
Peter Riddell, page 14  
Diary, page 14  
Leading article  
and letters, page 15  
Soaring failures, page 19  
Life and Times, page 7

London 7.21 pm to 8.30 pm  
Bristol 7.41 pm to 8.45 pm  
Edinburgh 7.47 pm to 8.46 pm  
Manchester 7.41 pm to 8.44 pm  
Perth 7.51 pm to 8.51 pm

Sun rise: 6.40 pm  
Sun sets: 7.31 pm  
Moon rises: 5.01 pm  
Moon sets: 3.46 pm

New Moon April 3

Temperature at midday yesterday: o, cloudy 1;  
f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

London 7.21 pm to 8.30 pm  
Bristol 7.41 pm to 8.45 pm  
Edinburgh 7.47 pm to 8.46 pm  
Manchester 7.41 pm to 8.44 pm  
Perth 7.51 pm to 8.51 pm

Sat Saturday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset,  
and Teignmouth, Devon 13.1 (55F). Lowest  
day temp: Exeter, Devon 10.9 (51F). Highest  
sunshine: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, 0.26 in. Highest  
temperature: Scarborough, North Yorkshire,  
and Cromer, Norfolk, 4.6 hr.

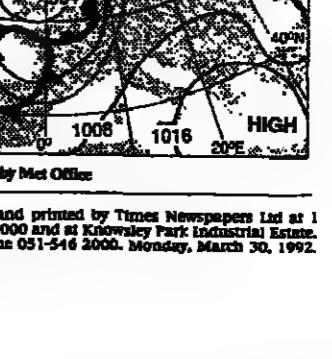
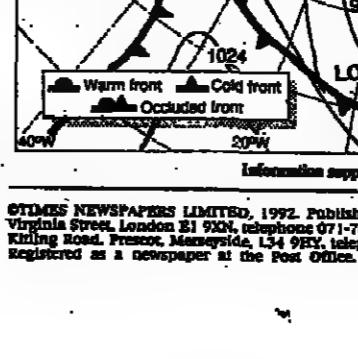
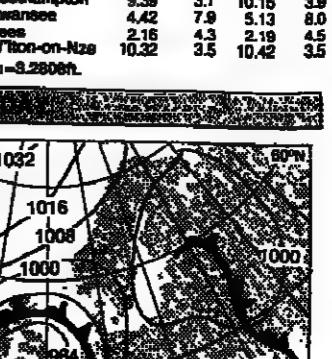
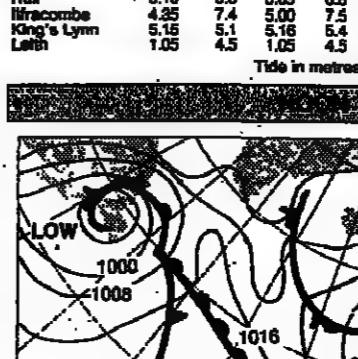
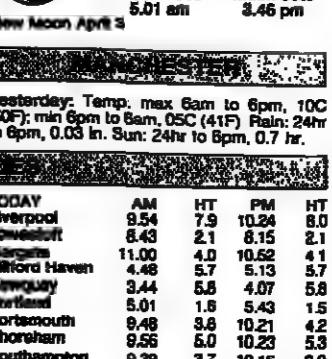
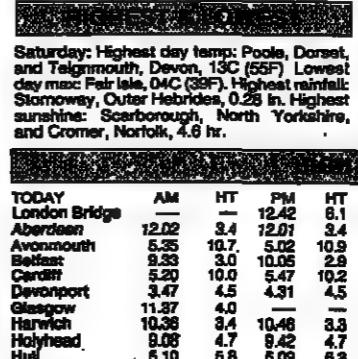
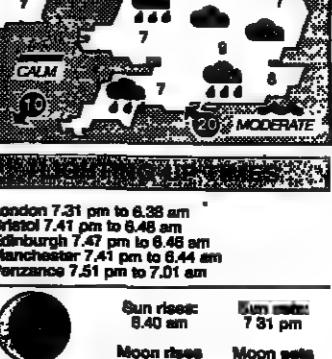
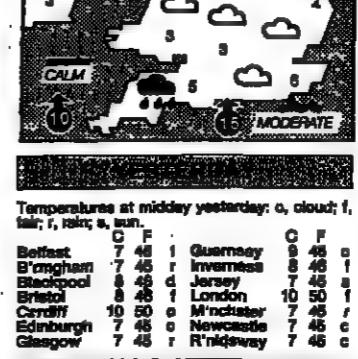
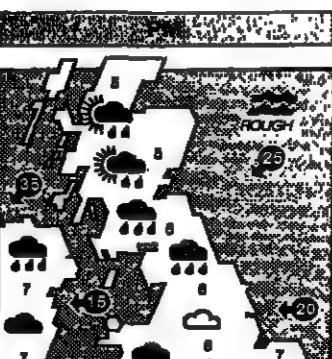
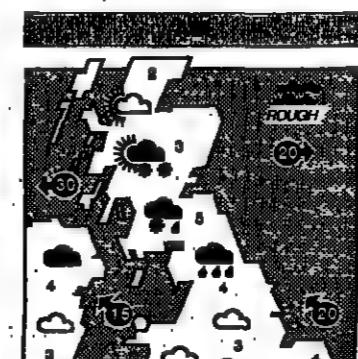
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TODAY: AM HT PM HT  
Liverpool 9.54 7.9 10.24 8.0  
Aberdeen 6.43 2.1 6.15 2.1  
Avonmouth 5.25 10.7 5.02 10.9  
Belfast 9.33 3.0 10.05 2.9  
Cardiff 5.01 10.2 5.47 10.2  
Edinburgh 5.46 5.7 5.13 5.7  
Glasgow 11.37 4.0 12.45 4.5  
Harrow 8.07 4.7 8.42 4.7  
Hull 5.10 4.5 5.15 4.5  
Inverness 4.25 7.4 5.00 7.4  
London 5.15 5.1 5.16 5.4  
Sheffield 2.15 4.3 2.19 4.5  
Winton-on-Naze 10.32 3.5 10.42 3.5

Time in minutes: 1m=3.2800ft.



Information supplied by Met Office

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Worried  
Tories  
target  
floaters

Continued from page 1  
focus this week on Britain's role in Europe and the world, an issue on which they believe Mr Kinnock will struggle to compete.

The gloomy survey published yesterday by Dun & Bradstreet International, the business information company, showed that business failures in Britain totalled 14,381 for the first three months of this year.

Although the figure was only slightly higher than the statistic for the last quarter of 1991, it showed a sharp increase on the first quarter of 1991, when 9,622 businesses failed. There were a record 47,771 failures last year, a third more than in 1990, and unless there is some sign of recovery soon, the record could fall again. The study also shows that the present weekly rate of failures, at 1,124, is much higher than the 800 a week recorded last March.

Philip Mellor, D&B's marketing manager, said previous recessions showed that the rate of business failures tended to peak some time after the recession had reached a trough. The business failure figures, combining bankruptcies and liquidations, confirm employment department jobless statistics which show that the South-East is still suffering more severely from the recession than the rest of the country.

Gordon Brown, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, said the figures showed that business failures would now exceed 100,000 during the recession with more than one million lost jobs. "This makes this recession election a referendum on Conservative economic failure," he said.

"With the new figures showing business failures rising faster now than even in 1991 and that half of company liquidations are in the South-East, the Labour party will this week step up its economic campaign demanding a new deal for small businesses, with John Major the 'unemployment prime minister' who has cost us a million jobs. The Conservatives are guilty of abandoning businesses to their fate."

• BUSINESS NEWS 19-23  
• SPORT 28-34  
• RACING 31

THE TIMES  
BUSINESS

MONDAY MARCH 30 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

MAN OF THE WEEK

Playing the part of a true captain

**N**ot quite three months old and 1992 is already looking a good year for alumni of Sedbergh school. Will Carling, the England rugby captain, has his double grand slam, and Robert Napier, chief executive of Redland, has Steetley.

Thanks to the intervention of the Office of Fair Trading, Mr Napier's £600 million success took rather longer than the victories strung together by Mr Carling and his team — a gruelling 107 days in fact. And while a post-match sing-song in a muddy team



Napier: challenge bath may not quite be Mr Napier's way of celebrating, there is no doubt that the Redland team, in its own pin-striped fashion, is every bit as delighted as its sporting counterparts.

Had spectators been admitted, the manner of Redland's success last Thursday would have provided gripping entertainment. With just 45 minutes to go and still 7 per cent short of the acceptance needed for victory, the tension was a considerable test of Mr Napier's calm, analytical style. But a brisk walk round the block later — the financial equivalent of calling for Jonathan Webb — victory was assured. Project Merlin, as the bid was code-named, had landed.

**U**nlike the England team, Redland's victory will not signal the departure of a number of familiar faces. Indeed, even holidays will be in short supply as the youthful team put together by the 44-year-old chief executive gets down to the challenge of delivering what it has promised. Sir Colin Corness, now non-executive chairman, built Redland into what is. What it will become is Mr Napier's problem.

It is a challenge he is likely to relish, with the global recession largely responsible for Thursday's forecast fall in pretax profits to £185 million only adding to its intellectual appeal, one suspects. But it will not be tackled alone. The Steetley success has shown that Redland is a team effort these days, where individuals' views are listened to and, once agreed, acted upon. That team drew up the detailed bid. Now will the Merlin fly?

MATTHEW BOND

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.7380 (+0.0373)  
German mark  
2.8581 (-0.0038)  
Exchange index  
90.2 (+0.4)  
Bank of England official  
close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share

UK business failures soar to 1,200 a week

BY ROSS THREMAN AND JONATHAN FROST

**B**USINESS failures in Britain are running at 248 every working day, more than 50 per cent up on the level of a year ago, according to Dun & Bradstreet International, the business information company.

The group recorded 14,381 business collapses during the first quarter of 1992. That is 4.5 per cent higher than during the final quarter of last year, and compares with 9,622 for the first quarter of 1991. Last year was a record for business failures, with 47,777 liquidations and bankruptcies, compared with 28,935 in 1990 and 18,163 in 1989.

The figure for this year may be even worse. The current weekly rate of failures, at 1,240, is sharply up on the level of 800 a week recorded during March last year.

Philip Mellor, D&B's marketing manager, said previous recessions showed that the rate of business failures tended to peak some time after the recession had reached a trough. Trends within the figures appear to suggest that the recession has entered a mature phase. The weekly rate of liquidations slowed from 479 in the last quarter of 1991 to 467 in the first quarter of 1992. But the weekly rate of bankruptcies rose from 708 to 773.

Mr Mellor said the rise in bankruptcies was consistent with initial evidence from an incomplete D&B survey of managing directors which suggested that the problem of late payment had become worse during the first quarter of 1992.

The business failure figures

confirm evidence from employment department jobless statistics that the South-East continues to suffer more from the recession than the rest of the country. London and the South-East accounted for nearly 40 per cent of business failures and over 50 per cent of liquidations.

The biggest rise in business failures was in the South-East, according to D&B.

Here there were 3,523 business failures during the final quarter of 1992, an increase of 87.5 per cent on the same month of last year. The number of bankruptcies more than doubled, to 2,234, while liquidations, at 1,239, were up 53.1 per cent.

The increase in business failures was also particularly high in the South-West, where it rose by 58.9 per cent to 1,724, in the eastern region, where there was a 59.5 per cent increase, and in Wales, where there was a 74.3 per cent rise.

In the East Midlands, the West Midlands, and the North-East, the rise in the number of failures narrowly exceeded 50 per cent.

Only in the North-West, where failures rose by 41.6 per cent, and in Scotland, where the increase was 28.2 per cent, and in London, which saw a 45.4 per cent increase in business failures, was the rise more modest.

Levels of credit for long-term financial commitments such as car and house purchases remain depressed in the run-up to the election, although demand for credit for smaller consumer items is on the rise. Figures from Infotlink, a financial data company, show that non-building society mortgage ap-

plications were down in February by 12.4 per cent on the same month in 1991.

The slump was even greater in the new car loans sector, which fell by 16.1 per cent, an acceleration on January's 14.3 per cent rate of decline.

However, figures for retail credit showed a 7 per cent year-on-year increase in demand, confirming a trend established in December.

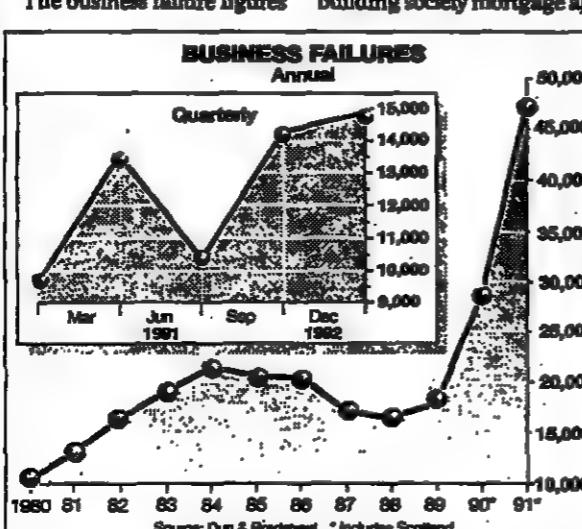
■ The Institute of Directors has outlined a number of concerns about Conservative manifesto proposals for business, although it is publicly backing the government in the election. Peter Morgan, the director general of the IoD, said that none of the parties were "even discussing" how to achieve lower levels of interest rates. Labour and Liberal Democrat proposals to freeze and later abolish the uniform business rate are favoured over those of the Conservatives. However, overall, the IoD said that its assessment of the three parties' manifestos "lead us to the conclusion that the Conservative party's proposals show a better understanding of the case for a market economy than their political opponents".

■ The Institute of Economic Affairs remains pessimistic about the recovery because of "major structural weaknesses" in the economy, according to a new report out today.

The report urges restructuring industry and the housing market and withdrawing from the European exchange-rate mechanism. In it, Walter Eids, director general of the National Economic Development Office, highlighted "major weaknesses" in the engineering industry. Low profits in the sector were cutting investment under the levels needed to compete in Europe, he wrote.

■ Further evidence of a deepening recession comes with the latest figures, showing higher numbers of county court judgments against businesses. Judgments in England and Wales in the second half of 1991 rose 35 per cent, to 221,538, compared with the second half of 1990. County court judgments against individuals reached a high of 1.8 million in 1991.

■ Small firms sold almost 1 million jobs, equivalent to 15 per cent of their workforce, in the two years to 1991, according to a Small Business Research Trust survey.



Brent to confirm £1.6bn funding

BY MATTHEW BOND

**B**RENT Walker, the leisure company, is expected to confirm today that it has finally completed its £1.6 billion refinancing agreement.

The final agreement comes about 16 months after the company, then guided by George Walker, its founder, first entered into talks with its banks. Even after Mr Walker was removed as chief executive last year, the refinancing took Lord Kindersley, Brent Walker's chairman, another 10 months to conclude.

The original proposals had conditions that had to be met before the 47 banks that lent money to Brent Walker and the 30 banks that backed the

agreement comes only one day before the approvals given by bondholders and shareholders at December's extraordinary meetings run out.

Under the agreement, the banks are swapping £250 million of debt into equity with the balance converted into a term debt maturing at the end of 1997.

The original proposals had conditions that had to be met before the 47 banks that lent money to Brent Walker and the 30 banks that backed the

agreement would approve the agreement. All bar one of the pre-conditions have been met, although the banks have agreed the outstanding matter can be set on one side to enable the refinancing to proceed. This is the settlement of Brent Walker's dispute with Grand Metropolitan over the acquisition of William Hill and Mecca Racing. Grand-Met sold the companies to Brent Walker for £685 million in 1989.

The deal has also added to the pressure on UBS Phillips & Drew, Lonrho stockbroker, but Paul Spicer, Lonrho's deputy chairman, had no comment to make on reports that P&D was likely to resign.

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Chic are cheerless about Labour win

BY DEBRA ISAAC

**D**ESPITE Labour's pledges to invest in "showcases for fashion and design", key British fashion designers are predicting an exodus of their clients if there is a high-tax Labour government.

Zandra Rhodes, whose exotic evening gowns sell for more than £2,000, said: "The whole of the industry would be ruined in this country if Labour wins. Times are really hard now, but under Labour,

said: "We've heard rumblings from our customers, very rich, very high-profile people, that they're going to leave the country if Labour wins and I think it will be very difficult."

Mr Starzewski believes any designers of luxury products will feel the pinch. He said: "People who earn their money, people who have mortgages and school fees to pay, the people who can only just

start to spend." Another encouraging sign for Britain's haute couture industry is the number of top continental designers, including Gianni Versace and Christian Lacroix, opening shops in London this spring.

But Liliane Abouz, who co-owns the Valentino shops in Bond Street and Sloane Street, and who today opens a new Karl Lagerfeld shop in Bond Street, probably sums up the prevailing mood. "I am a Conservative and I know the Conservative

Property slump hits leading firms

**O&Y**  
seeks  
informal  
talks

BY MATTHEW BOND

**O**LYMPIA & York, the Canadian property group, has called off the meeting in London planned for today between the company and some of its British and European banks.

The decision follows a presentation to 20 banks, including some European banks, at O&Y's headquarters in Toronto on Friday, less than a week after the group first admitted it was facing a "liquidity crisis" and was in talks with its banks over debts now estimated at £520 billion (£10 billion). Instead of repeating the meeting in London, Michael Dennis, the O&Y executive in charge of the Canary Wharf project in London Docklands, has returned to London to talk to banks on an informal basis.

Barclays Bank is believed to have the biggest British exposure to O&Y. Last week, the bank became the manager of a £52 million short-term facility that is enabling work on O&Y's Canary Wharf project to proceed.

Tom Johnson and Robert Miller, the outside executives brought in by O&Y to head its negotiations with the banks, were also expected in London last week. Their trip has been postponed to give them more time to prepare the interim refinancing plan that O&Y has promised will be ready for its next meeting with bankers on April 6. O&Y has asked that debt maturing before that be rolled over.

Reports that O&Y's debt problems threaten the second phase of Canary Wharf appear exaggerated as, even before the debt problem emerged, O&Y had made it clear there were no immediate plans for further building. Phase one is almost complete.

Letting the remaining office space at Canary Wharf remains the group's top priority. While the quality of the finished buildings at the development continues to win praise, the London office market is still extremely competitive with supply outstripping demand and rents under pressure.

Leading article, page 15



In the hot seat: Gerald Ronson will this week ask for time to repay Heron's debts

Ronson to face bankers

**G**ERALD Ronson faces a testing week as he prepares a presentation for his bankers on Heron International, his debt-stricken property and motor group.

On Friday morning, he will meet bankers and ask for up to two years to repay the group's £1.2 billion of debt.

The presentation is expected to include a forecast of a heavy loss for the group in the financial year ending tomorrow, compared with a profit of £2 million in 1991. The results may be accompanied by large asset write-downs.

Mr Ronson and other Heron directors have already met

and spoken to many of the group's bankers to warn them of the problems, but they have not released detailed figures.

The group is expected to ask for the managements on a proportion of each of its ten Swiss francs and eurobonds issues to be extended by up to two years, and for similar extensions on its term loans.

Unless the banks agree to the proposals, Heron may be unable to repay debts on time next year.

Heron's property, petrol retailing and motor businesses have been hard hit by the recession and the group was

not helped when Mr Ronson was sentenced to 12 months in prison in September 1990, just as the economy was slowing down. He was released in February last year after serving six months.

Last month, Mr Ronson appointed Price Waterhouse to assess the group's finances. Heron is also being helped in the debt reconstruction by UBS Phillips & Drew, the investment bank, and Allen & Overy, the solicitors.

However, since he controls all of Heron, Mr Ronson is expected to take a leading role in the events and in the meeting.

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FIMBRA

JOHN CHARCOL

# Volkswagen to cut 12,500 workers despite profit rise

FROM REUTER IN HANOVER

VOLKSWAGEN, Europe's biggest car maker, plans to cut 12,500 jobs by 1996 and has recommended Ferdinand Piech, the Audi chief, to succeed Carl Hahn as management board chairman from 1993.

Dieter Ullsperger, the finance chief, also announced slightly improved 1991 group results and an unchanged dividend of DM1 per ordinary share and DM12 per preference share. Net profit rose 1.8 per cent to

a new high of DM1.11 billion (DM1.09 billion).

Herr Ullsperger said VW planned to cut 12,500 of its 130,000 domestic jobs by 1996, denying a report in *Manager Magazin*, the German monthly magazine, that the company would slash its workforce by 25,000 over that period. The cuts would be carried out by attrition. He said the domestic workforce had already been trimmed by 3,000 in 1991.

VW later announced that

## Last pleas made in Wilkes tussle

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

THE £28 million all paper takeover bid by Petrocon for James Wilkes, the engineering concern, closes at 1pm today with both sides making last-ditch pleas for backing.

The bid has been one of the City's dirtiest for years, with accusations about management and personal styles flying in both directions. During the battle, Stephen Hinchliffe, the chairman of the bid target, resigned. He was replaced by Arthur Watt.

The Takeover Panel criticised three leading corporate finance advisers concerning events in January leading up to the formal announcement of a bid on February 3. Owner-

ship of Beauchamp Hall, a listed property set in parkland outside Sheffield, and used as Wilkes' headquarters, was criticised by Petrocon. The property has now been sold.

The bidder also criticised a payment of £533,000 made to Mr Hinchliffe, Wilkes' former chairman, when he quit. In February, Mr Watt, said members of Petrocon's management team, including Colin Robinson, the chairman, were the subject of legal action alleging that they acted in breach of their fiduciary duties as company directors.

Petrocon's bid terms are 13-for-three. The result of the battle is expected later today.

the executive committee of its supervisory board had agreed to recommend that Herr Piech, a member of the Porsche supervisory board and the grandson of Ferdinand Porsche, who developed the VW Beetle and founded Porsche, the sports car maker, should succeed Herr Hahn from January 1, 1993. Herr Hahn's contract was due to expire at the end of 1993. Herr Piech has headed VW's profitable Audi unit since 1988.

Herr Ullsperger said the company would also recommend to an April supervisory board meeting that Daniel Goeddeve, head of the company's VW marque, be appointed deputy management board chairman.

Group sales also reached a new record, rising 12.1 per cent to DM76.3 billion from DM68.6 billion a year earlier. However, parent net profit plunged by a third to DM4.47 million from DM670 million, dragged down by high spending on new models. Extra depreciation linked to VW's location in the former border area between east and west Germany and tax write-offs in eastern Germany had also trimmed more than DM1 billion from the company's 1991 earnings, Herr Ullsperger said.

The 1991 results were in line with the last outlook issued by VW in February, which said group net profit would be flat, while parent net profit would decline.

Raising standards: Ray Wild, principal, says the race is on to internationalise

## College to expand abroad

HENLEY Management College plans to widen its international presence in the thriving master of business administration (MBA) qualification sector by expanding joint collegiate ventures abroad (Derek Harris writes).

The college has 16 ventures, including a stake in the International Management Institute in St Petersburg, Russia. An agreement has

been finalised with Zagreb Business School in Croatia. Henley is also opening a branch of the college in Hong Kong this year.

Professor Ray Wild, principal, said: "In business management, the race is on to internationalise. By the end of this year, we aim to have at least 20 ventures in place and there should be more after that." The aim is to have a full

international network in place within three years.

Henley currently has more than 6,000 MBA students, representing 15 per cent of its activities. It is the first college to establish a business administration senior tier by creating a doctor of business administration (DBA) qualification. There are signs that other British business schools will follow the initiative.

## Hard times likely to knock Pearson profits

TODAY

LORD Blakenham, the chairman of Pearson, the publishing, financial and industrial group, will today report a hefty decline in profits, reflecting the difficult trading conditions in publishing and entertainment.

The group, which owns the *Financial Times* and Madame Tussaud's, is expected to see its final pre-tax profits fall to £165 million, against £226.3 million last time, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from £163 million to £170 million. P&D expects net debt to be reduced from £400 million to about £190 million, with interest payments cut by the proceeds from the £314 million disposal of the 22.2 per cent stake in Elsevier, the Dutch publisher.

Lucas Industries, the aerospace and motor components group headed by Sir Anthony Gill, is expected to show, at best, a small first-half profit and, at worst, to slide into the red. A combination of weakness in European automotive markets, declining military expenditure in the aerospace sector, poor demand for spares and high restructuring costs will affect the group.

Sandy Morris, at County NatWest, expects the company to break even, compared with pre-tax profits of

£55.3 million last time. Fully diluted earnings per share are forecast to fall to 0.7p (5.8p).

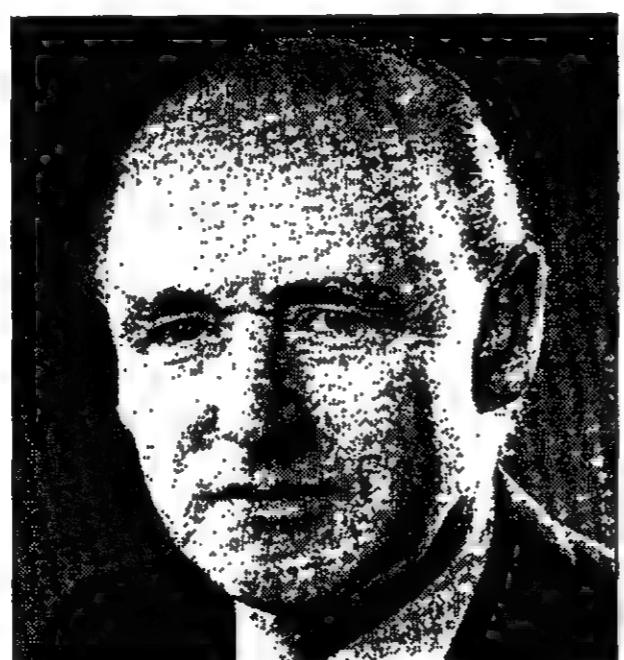
However, analysts expect a maintained interim dividend of 2.1p, covered by an expected inflow of £90 million from the pension fund, although all eyes will be on the group's cash flow.

The recession, restructuring and refinancing will combine to take their toll at Hickson International, the chemicals group. Philip Morrison, at Smith New Court, has pencilled in a decline in final pre-tax profits to £21 million, against £26.7 million last time. A higher tax charge is expected to push earnings per share to 10.9p (15.9p), although the dividend should be maintained at 8p.

Inchcape, the international services and marketing group, predicted full-year profits of at least £180 million (£174 million) at the time of last December's £376 million rights issue to finance the acquisition of Tozes Kemistry & Millburn. Market forecasts range from £180 million to £182 million.

Interline: EPM Income Trust, International Investment Trust Company of Jersey, Lucas Industries, Finance, Arrow Group, Foods, Sodexho, National Capital and Regional Properties, Computer People Group, Edinburgh Fund Man-

agers, Hobson International,



Profit or loss? Sir Anthony Gill of Lucas Industries

TOMORROW

The effects of the recession are expected to knock Croda International, the chemicals group. Smith New Court forecasts a decline in annual pre-tax profits to £21 million (£33.7 million). Forecasts range from £20 million to £22.5 million. A higher tax charge is likely to push earnings per share down to 10.5p (17.5p). A dividend of 7.37p (11p) is predicted.

Interline: AB Electronic Products Group, Bell & Gosford Japan, TIP, Gold, Honey, Pentronics, TIP Europe, Trafford Park Estates, Finlays Asia Group, Anglo Pacific Resources, Sibson & Battersea Shrubsole, BNB Resources, Cilliers Cawthron, Croda International, EPM, Gosselink, European Project, Investment Trust, Garton Engineering, Gaskell, Hay (Norman), Headman Group, Jacobs (John-J), Johnson Press, Macfarlane Group (Cawthron), Mayflower Corporation, Morrisons, Morrisons & Pascall, Tyne Tees Television.

Economic statistics: Finished steel consumption and stock changes (fourth quarter).

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Economic statistics: Finished steel consumption and stock changes (fourth quarter).

Wednesday

Harrison & Crosfield, the chemicals, building supplies and plantations group, is expected to see its final pre-tax profits slide 30 per cent to £74 million, according to County NatWest. Market forecasts range from £67 million to £75 million, although the big question is whether the dividend will be cut. County predicts a dividend of 6.3p (9p).

Finalise: Ash & Lacy, Harrison & Crosfield, Hogg Group, House of Fraser, J Sainsbury, Kellie Group, British Canadian Investment Company, Radmac Group, Senior Engineering, Sherwood Computer Services.

Economic statistics: House renovations (fourth quarter); housing starts and completions (February).

THURSDAY

Sax Alliance will conclude the composite insurers' reporting season. UBS Phillips & Drew has pencilled in heavier losses of £450 million, against last time's deficit of £181 million. Market forecasts range from losses of £420 million to losses of £270 million.

Schoell, the supplier of food and personal healthcare products, is likely to report final pre-tax profits of £16.2 million (£14.2 million) according to Goldman Sachs.

Interline: Barry Wehmiller International, Manchester United, Associated Fisheries, Bardi (William) Campbell International, Dawsongroup, Great Southern Group, Hawden Stuart, Home Counties Newspapers Holdings, London School of Management, Trust, Saxon-Swan Engineering, Sun Alliance Group, Telemetrics, Tibury Douglas, Trans World Communications.

Economic statistics: UK official reserves (March).

FRIDAY

Interline: China & Eastern Investment Company, Finlays, Atlas Catering, Equipment, Stewart Resources, Tropicana Group, Kringpan Group, Korea Liberalisation Fund, New Ireland Holdings, Scottish Television, Usherville, Vicks.

Economic statistics: House renovations (fourth quarter); housing starts and completions (February).

PHILIP PANGALOS

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Security Pacific sells Asian broking arm

SECURITY Pacific, the California-based bank that sold Hoare Govett, the London stockbroking firm, last month, has announced the disposal of Hoare Govett Asia, its Asian broking operations. A majority share in Hoare Govett Asia is to be sold to its management and employees with a 49 per cent stake being taken by Guoco Group, the holding company for the Dao Heng Bank in Hong Kong. Hoare Govett Asia has eight sales and research offices in Asia and sales operations in London, New York and Sydney.

The sale agreement forms part of Security Pacific's strategy of concentrating on its core banking activities in the western part of America and in the Pacific rim. Tony Lowrie, chief operating officer of Hoare Govett Asia, said: "The Guoco relationship means that we are able to relaunch Hoare Govett Asia as an independent regional stockbroker with a strong financial partner."

### Olivetti expects loss

OLIVETTI, the Italian computer maker which is due to report a loss for 1991, expects to break even in 1992 and move into profit next year, analysts who attended a company presentation said. They said Carlo De Benedetti, the chairman, expected turnover in 1992 to increase about 2 to 3 per cent from last year and further in 1993. In 1991, Olivetti had a turnover of £8,600 billion, (£4 billion) down from £9,040 billion a year earlier. The analysts said the chairman expected the company to report a 1991 consolidated net loss of £290 million, compared with a profit of £60.4 billion.

### Israel given IMF loan

ISRAEL has received a \$250 million loan from the International Monetary Fund to compensate for the country's foreign currency losses during the Gulf war. The IMF approved the five-year loan on the basis of a report drawn up by a mission that visited Israel last year. The Bank of Israel said: "The low-interest loan comes with a two-year grace period. Israel had sought compensation from the IMF for foreign currency losses due to an increase in oil prices and a fall in tourism revenue during the tension in the Gulf from August 1990 to March last year."

### Ballot on bank action

MORE than 17,000 staff at the Royal Bank of Scotland are to be balloted on industrial action short of a strike by Bifu, the banking union, after the company refused to take two pay disputes to arbitration. The union said that clerical staff had been offered increases of between 2.5 and 3.5 per cent. Managers had been asked to change to a system of discretionary, performance-related rises. The union is seeking an 8 per cent rise across the board.

## SMALLER COMPANIES

### Addison sweeps to pole position

A general election guarantees that the market research companies achieve a high profile. So it is highly appropriate that the present political campaign should serve as a backdrop to the formation of the largest British-based market research company through the merger of Taylor Nelson and AGB Research.

The Addison Consultancy Group, the quoted parent of Taylor Nelson, is purchasing AGB's part of the collapsed Maxwell empire for £14.75 million. The move takes Addison from fifth position in Britain to pole position, with annual turnover of about £60 million.

The acquisition is being funded through an £18 million rights issue, underwritten by Robert Fleming, which closes next Monday. New shares are being offered at 12p each on a nine-for-four basis.

Addison is acquiring the AGB business, but not the companies. It will not be required to take on expensive leases or unnecessary assets. The deal includes AGB's continuous research panels for sectors including food and packaged goods, the operation that provides the television industry with ratings information and the ad hoc market research business.

The business produced good profits and margins until 1988, when Robert Maxwell successfully bid £134 million. Since then many parts of the business have been sold. What was retained was affected by the imposition of high rents, management charges, the removal of management incentives and a high level of capital spending. The curtailment of rental

MARTIN BARROW

route to lower interest rates was through lower public spending. Only half the increase in public spending for the fiscal year ahead can be attributed to the recession. The rest represents a deliberate shift in public spending, increasing the structural deficit.

Higher deficits due to lower taxation have proved more acceptable to the market than ones born of structural shifts in government spending and there is an understandable fear of more to come. Credibility could be restored by swift entry to the narrow ERM band and no doubt Treasury policy makers will be keen to offer this advice. There

allowing for taxation and likely inflation rates, interest rates should be high enough to support sterling

seems little need to panic about the interest rate consequences. Allowing for taxation and likely inflation rates, interest rates should be high enough to support sterling.

Allowing for taxation and likely inflation rates, interest rates should be high enough to support sterling.

Interest rates, the exchange rate, government spending or taxation — the usual government policy levers — were not designed to reflect how people may react to high debt levels. Equally, if confidence were to return swiftly, the tax base would soon respond and expectations for the budget deficit would be more reassuring. The market, however, needs some convincing: the structural

deficit to lower interest rates was through lower public spending. Higher taxation is not the easy option if once was that sterling falters it will be because fiscal policy is judged too slack, not that interest rates are too low.

Neither the lack of consumer confidence nor the budget deficit problem is unique to Britain. Lower growth projections are leading to rising deficit expectations in Europe, which are set to conflict with the terms set for monetary convergence. Thus, disenchantment with the Maastricht summit commitments is emerging across the EC. The deflationary effects of a German attempt to lower average European inflation rates to below 2 per cent risk dampening economic growth into 1993.

The consequent deterioration in the European budget position will not assist the lowering of short rates, despite the favourable inflation picture. Competing foreign demands for British savings would eventually restrict the enthusiasm of any incoming government to spend as long gilt yields and hence the cost of capital in the economy, rose.

Before the election it is difficult to gauge the potential upside for long bond yields over the first two years of the new parliamentary term. Speculating on the yield floor is less hazardous. It seems increasingly likely that the Bank of England's supplies at end-February of Treasury 9 per cent 2012 stock on a yield basis of just over 9 per cent were, for it at least, the sale of the year.

MICHAEL HUGHES

Barclays de Zoete Wedd

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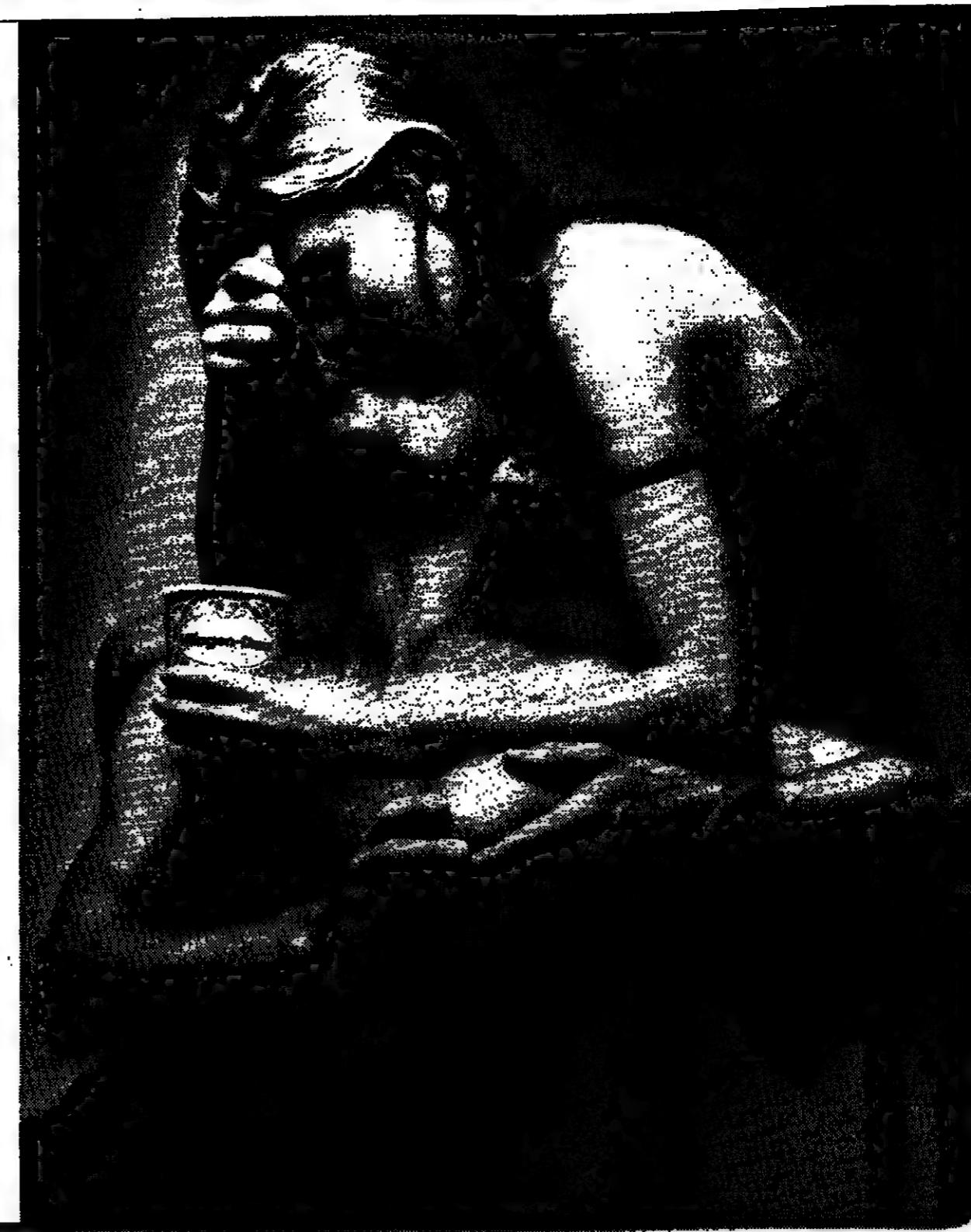
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No	Company	Group	Date or Issue	Price	Wkly	Mo	Yd	Yr	PPE
1	Holiday Motor	Motors/Air		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
2	Boat	Paper/Print		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
3	Electra	Electrical		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
4	Starline (Jeff)	Paper/Print		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
5	WTR	Industrial		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
6	Palmer	Industrial		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
7	Nichols (TN)	Foods		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
8	Concord	Textiles		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
9	CALA	Building/Bds		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
10	Midland	Build/Bds		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
11	Silver Water	Water		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
12	OS Holdings	Dropship/Spec		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
13	Gas (Gas)	Oil/Gas		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
14	Unilever	Foods		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
15	Calderwood Roy	Building/Bds		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
16	Justine Math	Industrial		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
17	Castrol Cotton	Leisure		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
18	Mondelez	Building/Bds		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
19	Acad	Electrical		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
20	Hess	Breweries		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
21	Thomas White	Wines		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
22	Amico	Building/Bds		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
23	MPEC	Property		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
24	Airtex	Leisure		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
25	LBMS	Electrical		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
26	Robert & Brian	Transport		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
27	Euromaster Un	Transport		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
28	AB Food	Food		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
29	CRH	Building/Bds		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
30	Centrica	Paper/Print		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
31	BP Airways	Transport		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
32	Amersham	Chemicals/Pha		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
33	BAAA	Transport		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
34	Lindt	Food		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
35	Greens King	Breweries		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
36	Stomps Estates	Property		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
37	CRT Gp	Textiles		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
38	Timberline H	Industrial		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
39	Blue Circle	Building/Bds		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
40	Airtel-Logan	Breweries		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
41	Monks	Building/Bds		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
42	Monogram Press	Newspaper/Publ		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
43	Midland Red	Food		12	12	12	12	12	12.0
44	Yodhosa W	Water		12	12	12	12	12	12.0

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Please take into account any minor signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

The winner of the weekly Portfolio Platinum prize is Mrs Mary Geraghty of Harlow, Essex. She wins £5,000.

Mr cap

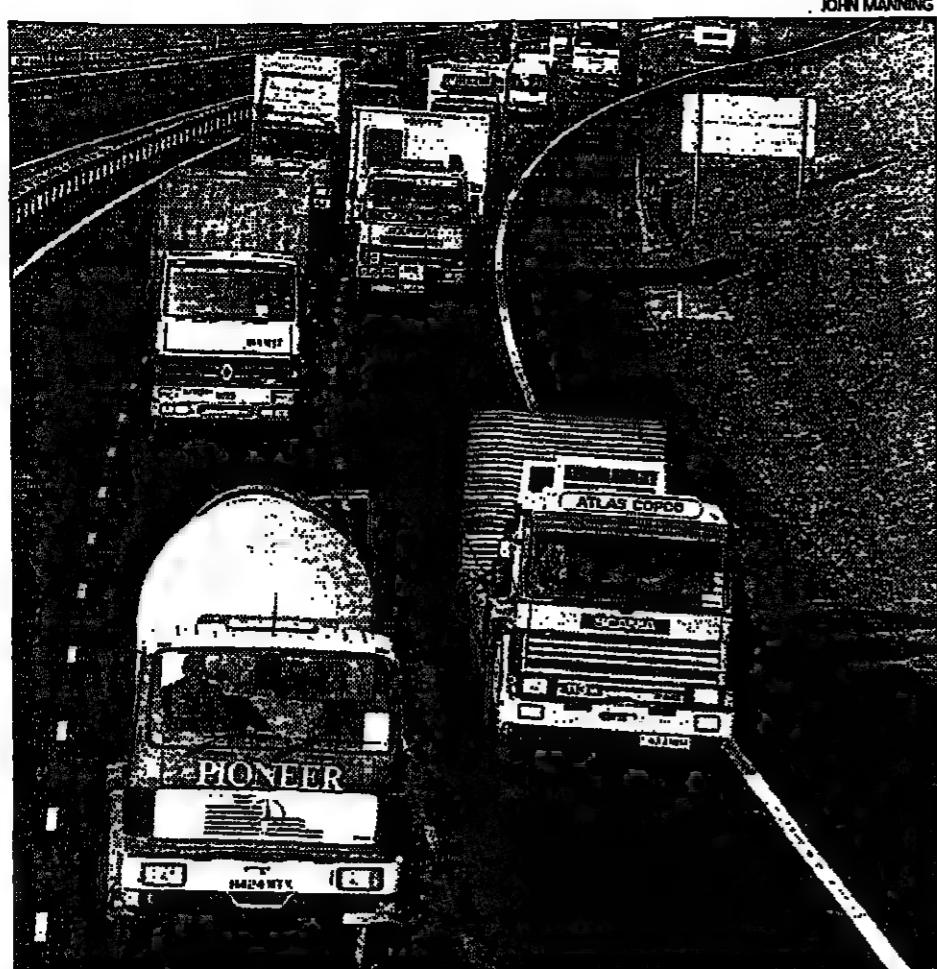
Company

Price Wkly Mo Yd Yr PPE

**BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP**

No	Company	Group	Date or Issue	Price	Wkly	Mo	Yd	Yr	PPE
1	ABN-Amro	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
2	Barclays	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
3	Bankers Trust	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
4	BNP	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
5	BSB	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
6	City Bank	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
7	Deutsche Bank	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
8	HSBC	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
9	ICI	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
10	Lehman Brothers	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
11	Midland Bank	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
12	NatWest	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
13	Standard Chartered	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
14	Swiss Bank	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
15	Union Bank	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
16	Westpac	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
17	Woolworths	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
18	Yodhosa W	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
19	Yodhosa W	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
20	Yodhosa W	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
21	Yodhosa W	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
22	Yodhosa W	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
23	Yodhosa W	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
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27	Yodhosa W	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
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39	Yodhosa W	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
40	Yodhosa W	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
41	Yodhosa W	200		24	24	24	24	24	18.4
42									

## DISTRIBUTION



On the way: the UK spends £37 billion a year on haulage, and Europe now beckons

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THE POWER TO DELIVER

who holds Britain's first chair in distribution, does not entirely go along with these warnings.

Professor Browne holds the recently established BRS professorship in transport at the Polytechnic of Central London. BRS is a subsidiary of NFC, Britain's biggest freight and logistics company. Soon the BRS chair is likely to become part of the University of Westminster.

Professor Browne says: "Dutch trade is being well served by the logistics industry but the UK industry should not be underestimated. This is especially in terms of its ability to manage complicated transport and warehousing contracts."

He argues that the UK industry has learnt to satisfy some extremely demanding customers, including the big retailing chains and industries relying on a complexity of components. These customers are typically in vehicle manufacture but also in sectors such as electronic goods.

He says: "Such customers demand a high quality of service and strike hard bargains on price."

Those in the UK market have long become accustomed to a deregulated trading environment and this will stand them in good stead as the distribution business becomes more Europeanised, Professor Browne says.

He sees other encouraging signs. Magna Park in Leicestershire is a high-cost development but with its vast warehousing capacity — more than three million sq ft so far and about another million to come — and leading-edge systems, it is flourishing, aided especially by its exceptional location in the middle of the country.

Freight villages around the country, linking with the Channel tunnel, would dynamically bring together different forms of transport, he points out. He expects journey times to be "attractive", thanks to the combined transport systems, offsetting the effects of the UK's peripheral location.

However, he too gives a warning that cost elements could still make life quite hard for UK distributors.

The Touche Ross survey underlines the opportunities in Europe, including the Eastern economies now emerging as an economic force.

Logistics could be a potent tool there, according to Excel Logistics, part of Britain's NFC, which has helped with special studies to improve food distribution in countries of the former Soviet Union.

**National distribution park planned**

**Tunnel link for business centre**

**POWERGEN**, the electricity generating company, and Trafalgar House Business Parks, a subsidiary of the construction and shipping conglomerate, are jointly developing what they claim is Britain's first national distribution park.

The park at Hams Hall at Colshill, Warwickshire, will cover 440 acres and provide up to seven million sq ft of warehousing.

The scheme is likely to cost £350 million during the next ten years, and when completed it will provide jobs for up to 4,000 people.

The scheme includes the Midlands Channel tunnel Railfreight terminal, which will be capable of handling more than a million tons of freight a year.

The terminal will serve the east and west Midlands and would be part of a network of similar facilities proposed by British Rail to capitalise on the arrival of the single market and the opening of the Channel tunnel in 1993.

Railfreight expects to open the terminal towards the end of 1994.

The site is owned by PowerGen and the power station there is due to close down in November this year.

Trafalgar House was chosen to be the partner from 20 local, national and international organisations.

In addition to the terminal,

future occupiers of the site will be offered the opportunity to have their own private rail sidings serving their premises direct.

The site will be developed in four phases and potential occupiers will be able to secure large parcels of land for warehousing and manufacturing operations. Hams Hall will support in principle from North Warwickshire borough council and Warwickshire county council.

The site is nine miles north-east of Birmingham city centre, a mile from junction 9 of the M42 and five miles from junction 4 of the M6. It is also close to the proposed Birmingham northern relief road, which is planned to be Britain's first privately run toll motorway.

Ed Wallis, Euro market in mind

Ed Wallis, the chief executive of PowerGen, which is based in Solihull, says: "This major, long-term investment in the Midlands will enable national and Midlands industry to take full advantage of the single European market."

Brian McCombie, the managing director of Trafalgar House Business Parks, adds: "We consider this to be one of the prime development opportunities of the 1990s."

"We believe it is the most significant Channel tunnel site in the UK."

**RODNEY HOBSON**

# Delivery package on offer

Rodney Hobson describes the Parcelforce plan for service

The acquisition by Securicor-Omega of the UK operations of Federal Express has put extra pressure on Parcelforce, the market leader in Britain's highly competitive parcels service.

"The market has overcapacity. It is very cut-throat in terms of pricing," says Peter Howarth, Parcelforce's managing director. He is to spend £250 million during the next five years to stay in the lead.

Parcelforce was set up as Royal Mail Parcels in 1986 when the Post Office was split into letters, parcels and counters divisions. Although it has a 30 per cent share of the parcels market, thanks partly to having 20,000 post offices as collecting centres, Parcelforce was renamed two years ago to take a step away from the parent.

Mr Howarth says: "We have had to become more self-reliant in this difficult time. There will always be a case for using the Royal Mail in rural areas, where there is a legal obligation to provide a postal service to every address every weekday. However, to develop our business we want to establish end-to-end control."

Parcelforce picks up, transports and delivers 50 per cent of its business. In the next year, it wants to see 80 per cent of parcels all the way through. Greater control should speed up delivery. At present, the standard delivery service for non-urgent items can be five days but Mr Howarth wants even the basic delivery service to be two days. Guaranteed next-day delivery is by 10am, noon or close of business and the express services are on the ones in increasing demand.

Parcelforce has 170 depots and is finding the growth area is in collecting and delivering door-to-door. It has begun a



Part of the service: parcels pass through a BR station

information technology. The training of drivers is a priority as 2,500 vehicles are being added to the fleet of 8,500 in the next 12 months.

Parcelforce is trying to eliminate the criticism that parcels are left on doorsteps when the recipient is out. Mr Howarth says: "Customers are often happy if the parcel is left, provided it is not in the rain and does not advertise that the premises are empty. However, we are going to leave a card giving an option to redeliver at an acceptable time, take the parcel to the recipient's place of work or leave it with a

trustworthy neighbour."

The expansion of Parcelforce is not likely to involve a strong move into handling heavier goods, however. Mr Howarth says: "Normally we carry parcels up to 30kg. That is the market we see ourselves best able to manage."

We have an arrangement with a carrier to take palletised deliveries and that way we can meet our customers' requirements. It represents about 10 per cent of our business and we do not want to turn it away."

"However, it is a useful addition to gain contracts, rather than a mainstream business."

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# Chunnel gives railways a chance to win the freight

Rail can compete effectively with roads on long hauls, says the CBI

Road transport will probably continue to be the preferred transport for freight into the next century, but the opening of the Chunnel tunnel will give the railways a chance to fight back.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) is among the organisations saying that any transport strategy must address the issue of a sensible division between alternative methods, capitalising on the advantages of each while maintaining competition.

The CBI says rail is effective at moving freight on long distances and moving bulk commodities over short distances. Rodney Hobson writes:

The opening of the tunnel will allow rail to compete effectively with roads on long hauls. The CBI says: "It is vital to ensure good road access at either end, since door-to-door journey times are what count. Diversion of some freight from road to rail will help to relieve road congestion on inter-urban roads and yield environmental benefits."

Freight can also be won from airlines with rapid city-centre links between London, Paris and Brussels.

British Rail is to spend more than £500 million at 1986

prices on rolling stock and infrastructure. This will ensure that up to 35 freight trains a day, as well as passenger trains, can be operated when the tunnel opens next year.

The CBI says: "To succeed in encouraging the private sector and local authorities to invest in freight facilities, it will need to demonstrate a clear commitment to provide competitive services and market them aggressively."

Investment in the facilities, such as wagons, sidings and loading equipment necessary to link up to the railway network, represents a long-term commitment for companies.

The CBI says it is unrealistic to assume that more than a small proportion of freight will travel end to end entirely by rail. However, it will be possible to develop combined transport with rail, giving speedy links between regional hubs throughout Europe.

The tunnel will give the opportunity in Britain for rail routes to bypass London, but that will mean substantial investment. The Community of European Railways, which groups the 12 European Community railways plus Switzerland and Austria, has put forward an ambitious proposal for a high-speed network which could be linked to Britain through the tunnel.

The Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français, the French railway, believes goods traffic through the tunnel should reach 16.4 million tons a year. Unfortunately the required infrastructure in the UK may not be in place before the end of the century. The cost of converting the whole network would be prohibitive.

## Chilled-food transport services are booming in the supermarket age

### Licence to chill

Tougher European Community regulations and the growing market for prepared foods sold by supermarket chains have led to a boom in chilled-food distribution services.

Specialists in the field say that retailers are moving to shorter lead-times for smaller, more frequent deliveries, even for longer-life products.

Some distributors are using the gradual harmonisation of health rules and expertise gained in the UK to help British and American companies expand on the Continent.

A typical example of the growth of chilled-food distribution is provided by Marks & Spencer, which uses a BOC subsidiary, Transhield, to distribute 90 per cent of its fresh and chilled food products from regional centres to stores in the UK.

Transhield operates solely for M&S, with 1,800 employees and a dedicated fleet of 340 vehicles.

On the Continent, M&S uses Temperature Controlled Services, a subsidiary of Excel Logistics. In Spain, a warehousing and distribution contract with Marks & Spencer covers all products including temperature-controlled food for the Madrid store. Excel also operates a multi-temperature warehousing and distribution contract for Marks & Spencer in France.

Excel has 32 million cubic feet of controlled temperature storing capacity in 24 depots throughout the UK, operates a fleet of about 600 vehicles and employs 2,300 people.

BOC is counting on its new Polarstream hybrid refrigerated trailer to give it an edge.

The vehicle has traditional mechanical refrigeration plus a liquid nitrogen system. Using liquid nitrogen allows temperatures to be reduced quickly and give more accurate temperature control. There is also less movement of air in the storage compartment, an advantage in transporting products where freshness is affected by oxygen.

Lorry drivers can switch between the two systems or operate both at the same time.

Peter Brinsden, managing director of BOC Distribution Services, says: "The Polarstream system is silent and simple to operate, has virtually no moving parts and does not use CFCs."

RODNEY HOBSON



Brought to book: the 280,000 sq ft WH Smith warehouse at Swindon, where up to 290 staff pick from 40,000 lines, and are able to send out 500,000 items a week

## Just made to measure

### Purpose-built warehousing helps business efficiency

the world's largest electrical component manufacturers.

Donald Murray (Paper) was able to make the most economic use of space at its Glasgow 72,000 sq ft distribution centre by building high eaves and narrow aisles.

The centre distributes 200 tons of paper and board products daily among its 3,000 customers nationwide. Using narrow aisles allows 64 rows of racking, each nearly 45 yards long and 12 yards high. This provides 15,000 pallet positions, with a storage capacity of 12,500 tons.

WH Smith, the retailer of

reading matter and stationery, has revolutionised its service to customers by building its Swindon warehouse to meet its needs. About 60 per cent of total sales by value and 90 per cent by volume are serviced by central warehousing.

WH Smith says that the advantage of a central channel of distribution, which it operates itself, is the control of the level of service that it provides. A central channel also makes life easier for WH Smith's suppliers.

Swindon has 280,000 sq ft of warehousing with up to 290 staff picking from 40,000 lines. During the busy period — from October to January — Swindon sends out 500,000 items a week. The typical WH Smith branch will carry 60,000 lines and Swindon is linked to the electronic point of sale, giving computerised control over delivery needs.

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## GOLF

# Forsbrand flawless as he keeps his title

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ANDERS Forsbrand, runner-up to Ronan Rafferty in Portugal last weekend, made a successful defence of the Volvo Open in Florence yesterday, when two rounds were played because of earlier delays caused by rain.

Forsbrand, who will be 31 on Wednesday, did not drop a stroke in rounds of 67 and 66 which gave him a four-round total of 271 and victory by a single stroke over Peter Senior, of Australia.

Forsbrand, who had just one bogey in his last 67 holes, gave much of the credit for his success to "all the hard work" he had put in over the last two years, changing his swing with David Leadbetter.

"For a spell today I played as good as I can — and I think that's as good as anybody in the world," Forsbrand said, after receiving his cheque for £37,500.

After helping Sweden win the Dunhill and World Cups last season, he has started this campaign with six top 12 finishes in eight starts and is now fourth in the European money list with £108,000.

He will not be in the US Masters starting line-up next week, but he will be at Augusta commentating for Swedish television. "Hopefully it won't be long before I'm there playing," Forsbrand said.

Rafferty beat Forsbrand by holing a 35ft birdie putt at the 18th last week and for most of the afternoon it looked as though the Swede might be denied again. After a hat-trick of birdies from the fifth had put him one in front,

Senior, replied in kind. But then the Australian, who was third in the Portuguese Open, dropped shots at the 7th, 12th, 14th and 16th.

When Forsbrand found the green at the 504-yard final hole with a two-iron and three-wood, and two-putted for a birdie, Senior, playing three matches behind, knew he had to birdie the final three holes to tie. It proved just beyond him.

He made an eight-footer on the 16th, but missed from 30 feet on the next and then had to eagle the last. That was never on from the moment his drive hit a tree and the ten-footer he sank for birdie did not matter.

Surrey's Martin Gates also had a share of the lead with four to play. But he was angry not to be given relief from a ditch on the long 15th and ran up a double bogey seven. He then took six down the last but still finished third.

**LEADING FINAL SCORES (GB and Ireland unless otherwise stated):** 1. A Forsbrand (Swe), 66-66-65-66-271; 2. R. Rafferty (Ire), 113-68-67-66-247; 3. A Forstrand (Nor), 66-65-65-65-247; 4. M. Gates (Ire), 73-65-71-67-246; 5. D. Gifford, 72-67-68-62-245 (Eng); 6. T. Senior (Aus), 70-68-71-67-247; 7. P. Baker (Eng), 70-68-71-67-247; 8. P. Lovell (Eng), 70-68-71-67-247; 9. J. McIlroy (N. Ire), 68-68-67-68-245; 10. J. McIlroy (S. Ire), 68-68-67-68-245; 11. P. Clegg (Eng), 73-67-71-71-245; 12. J. McIlroy (Eng), 71-68-70-68-245; 13. P. Clegg (Eng), 73-67-71-71-245; 14. J. McIlroy (Eng), 71-68-70-68-245; 15. N. Geddes (Eng), 73-68-70-68-245; 16. J. McIlroy (Eng), 71-68-70-68-245; 17. P. Clegg (Eng), 73-68-70-68-245; 18. J. McIlroy (Eng), 71-68-70-68-245; 19. P. Clegg (Eng), 73-68-70-68-245; 20. J. McIlroy (Eng), 71-68-70-68-245; 21. J. McIlroy (Eng), 71-68-70-68-245; 22. J. McIlroy (Eng), 71-68-70-68-245; 23. J. McIlroy (Eng), 71-68-70-68-245; 24. J. McIlroy (Eng), 71-68-70-68-245; 25. J. 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McIlroy (Eng), 71-68-70-68-245; 226. J. McIlroy (Eng), 71-68-





# Docklands Express given the all-clear

BY MICHAEL SEELEY

UNLESS the weather deteriorates dramatically before the weekend, the heavily-backed Docklands Express will take his chance in Saturday's Marelli Grand National.

The winner of Kempton's Racing Post Chase and subsequent Cheltenham Gold Cup third will not therefore be re-routed to Thursday's Marcell Chase for which Kings Fountain is a possible runner for the Kim Bailey stable.

Yesterday, the trainer and Compton Hellyer, one of the 10-year-old's owners, drove from Lambourn to Liverpool through driving rain. "We walked the whole of the course and were amazed at what good condition it was in," said Bailey.

"Although it was soft, there were good to soft patches. Unless there is torrential rain, he definitely runs. Apart from tonight, the forecast for the rest of the week is good."

Although Docklands Express is known to be at his most effective on fast going, the gelding, together with Cool Ground and Twin Oaks, are top quoted at 6-1 and 8-1 respectively. Other best prices are as follows: 12-1 Brown Windsor, 14-1 Laura's Beau, 16-1 Aunie Doe and Party Politics.

At Whitcombe, Cool Ground, the favourite, looked in impressive shape on Saturday.

Partnered by Adrian Maguire, the Gold Cup winner worked seven furlongs with Romany King, also an intended National runner, and Belmont Captain. "The horse is on a tremendous high and we're very hopeful," said Tony Balding.

Also on view at Peter Bolton's impressive training complex was Morley Street, who quickened away impressively from some inferior stable companions.

Yesterday, Balding confirmed that Richard Dunwoody will replace Jimmy Frost on the 1991 champion hurdler, who "disappointed when only fifth behind Royal Gai in this month's running of the race."

Michael Jackson, Morley Street's owner, considers that Frost outdid the waiting tactics at Cheltenham. "Frosty would say that the horse wasn't at his peak and wasn't firing," commented Balding diplomatically, "but these things have happened in racing before and I'm afraid they will happen again."

■ Folkestone, scheduled for today, has been cancelled because of a waterlogged course.

Dunwoody: teams up with Morley Street

**MANDARIN**  
2-30 Saddlehome.  
3-00 Amron.  
3-30 NORTHANTS (nap).  
4-00 Silver Samuri.  
4-30 Viardot.  
5-00 I Perceive.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3-30 BOLLIN MAGDALENE. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4-00 Sure To Win, 4-30 VIARDOT (nap). 5-00 Count Barachois.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

## 2.30 MONKEY BUSINESS MAIDEN GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (3-Y-O; C2:072; 6) (4 runners)

1 (4) 028525- SADDLEHOME 182 (Hive Sporting Promotions) R Whitside 9-0... 8 Clutton 6-9  
2 (5) VIVE LE ROI (N Moody) Mrs J Ramden 9-0... T Lucas 74  
3 (2) SALLY TADPOLE 350 (N Tindale) R McKeown 8-0... Kim Tindale 74  
4 (1) TAUFAN BLU (N Heslop) N Johnson 8-0... Dean McKeown 87

BETTING: 5-4 Tautan Blu, 7-4 Saddlehome, 7-2 Vive Le ROI, 8-1 Sally Tadpole, 1991: TRAB 5-0 M Roberts (2-1) C British 8-0

### FORM FOCUS

**SADDLEHOME**, ran well in good company last season, 3rd beaten 11 by Artistic Reel (levels) at Wolverhampton, 2nd beaten 10 by Artistic Reel (levels) at Newmarket, 2nd beaten 10 by Artistic Reel (levels) at Newmarket, Selection: SADDLEHOME

## 3.00 GO WEST SPRINT HANDICAP (2,820; 5f) (6 runners)

1 (2) 028522- MACROBIA 264 (G,F,G) (Mrs E Macpherson) M H Eastley 8-0-0... 8 Clutton 6-9  
2 (5) 028500- SADDLEHOME 182 (Hive Sporting Promotions) R Whitside 9-0-0... 8 Clutton 6-9  
3 (6) 028502- NEVER SO SURE (N K Whitside) Mrs J Ramden 4-0-0... 7 Weller 74  
4 (3) 028549- AMRON 10 (D,F,G,B) (R Peckles) J Berry 5-0-1... N Cartlidge 96  
5 (5) 022004- REAL STUNNER 173 (D,F) (P Devlin) M Naughan 5-0-1... G Hind 96  
6 (4) 028510- BRISAS 56 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Bixby) T Farnham 5-0-1... J Fanning 96

BETTING: 7-4 Never So Sure, 5-2 Amron, 5-2 Macrobia, 8-1 Stunner, 10-1 Brisas, 1991: TOO EAGER 5-2 K Darley (10-0) M W Eastley 11 ran

### FORM FOCUS

**MACROBIA** 2nd beaten 21st by Notey (gave 80) at Goodwood, (S) (levels) good to firm); 2nd best NEVER SO SURE (levels) (2nd) at Newmarket, 3rd beaten 11 by Artistic Reel (levels) at Newmarket, 3rd beaten 11 by Artistic Reel (levels) at Newmarket, Selection: MACROBIA

## 3.30 AT THE CIRCUS HANDICAP (2,468; 2m 19yd) (14 runners)

1 (7) 011121- DEB'S BALL 88 (G,F,G) (Mrs M Fether) D Moffatt 8-0-0... 8 Clutton 6-9  
2 (1) 028500- BROCTON GREY 373 (D Playforth) Mrs G Revey 5-0-1... K Darley 91  
3 (2) 028510- WEST WITH THE WIND 110 (G) (A Watson) G Moore 58-7... K Fallon 91  
4 (6) 028508- BUCKINGHAM BAND 148 (P Barr) F Lee 4-0-0... R Lapins 92  
5 (3) 028520- COSMIC DANCER 181 (D,F) (D Woods) A Hodge 5-0-0... N Cartlidge 94  
6 (4) 044442- K-BRIGADE 97 (C,F,G) (Mrs M Bixby) W C Bixby 7-0-0... S Riddout 94  
7 (5) 000001- NEEDWOOD MUPPET 143 (D Blapcott) R Morgan 5-0-0... S Webster 90  
8 (9) 028510- SULUK 12 (F) (Playforth Corporation Ltd) R Hollinshead 7-0-0... W Ryan 92  
10 (10) 044502- STARLIGHT WONDER 184 (N Thomas) R Barr 6-0-0... D Nicholls 91  
11 (13) 224040- MYSTERY BAND 161 (G) (Mrs M Mullen) M S Mullen 5-0-0... N Cartlidge 91  
12 (14) 044502- BOLLIN MAGDALENE 54 (N W Westcott) M H Eastley 4-0-0... S McNaughton 89  
13 (11) 20/05- MOMENT OF TRUTH 314 (J Glass) P Monahan 6-0-0... J Fanning 93  
14 (8) 028420- BRUSQUE 181 (S) (Fether) E Innes 6-0-0... Kim Tindale 95

BETTING: 5-4 Bollin Magdalene, 11-2 Needwood Muppet, 8-1 Brusque, 7-1 Suluk, 8-1 Northants, 10-1 Debs Ball, West With The Wind, 12-1 K-Brigade, 14-1 Mystery Band, 1991: ST ARLA 4-0-0 M Heslop 5-0-0 M Ball 11 ran

### FORM FOCUS

**DEB'S BALL** best Topfite (gave 200) 118 best (1m 45yd, firm), West With The Wind (1m 45yd, good); 2nd best Northants (levels) at Cheltenham (1m 45yd, good); 3rd best Musical Guest (levels) at Ayr (1m 45yd, good); 4th best Topfite (gave 200) at Uttoxeter (1m 45yd, good to firm), Suluk, an all-weather specialist, 2nd best (1m 45yd, good); 5th best (1m 45yd, good); 6th best (1m 45yd, good); 7th best (1m 45yd, good); 8th best (1m 45yd, good); 9th best (1m 45yd, good); 10th best (1m 45yd, good); 11th best (1m 45yd, good); 12th best (1m 45yd, good); 13th best (1m 45yd, good); 14th best (1m 45yd, good); 15th best (1m 45yd, good); 16th best (1m 45yd, good); 17th best (1m 45yd, good); 18th best (1m 45yd, good); 19th best (1m 45yd, good); 20th best (1m 45yd, good); 21st best (1m 45yd, good); 22nd best (1m 45yd, good); 23rd best (1m 45yd, good); 24th best (1m 45yd, good); 25th best (1m 45yd, good); 26th best (1m 45yd, good); 27th best (1m 45yd, good); 28th best (1m 45yd, good); 29th best (1m 45yd, good); 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Manchester United and Leeds United are forced to settle for goalless draws in the chase for the League title

## Robson's role remains critical

Queen's Park Rangers 0  
Manchester United 0

By STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

SUCH is the present form of Queen's Park Rangers, by far the most improved side in the first division, any visitor leaving their home with a point is mightily relieved. Manchester United, once they had learned of the improbable result at Elland Road, departed as though in triumph on Saturday.

The gap between them and Leeds United should, logically, have been increased to four or even five points. Instead, it remains bridgeable and United could gain a huge psychological advantage as well as the leadership tomorrow night when they complete one of their games in hand at Norwich City.

Rarely a pair of goalless draws have been so significant and, if they prove ultimately to be decisive, Bryan Robson will be seen to have played a characteristically leading role. His defensive perception was valuable throughout at Loftus Road, especially during United's early and potentially ominous anxiety.

Although Robson's qualities are no longer considered essential for England — a decision taken prematurely by Graham Taylor and one that may regret in June — they promise to carry United all the way to the title. At the age of 35, it is probably his last chance to do so.

Nothing, including injury, will hinder him. A victim of a calf strain, he was not supposed to be available for one of United's hardest outstanding fixtures. "As soon as he passed himself fit," Alex Ferguson, his manager, said, "I couldn't keep him out of the side."

Inevitably, Robson is showing signs of wear and tear. His legs are occasionally incapable of obeying messages from his brain and he is inclined to lunge either at the trailing limb of his target, to



Ground control: McClair, of Manchester United, shows clever horizontal skill at Loftus Road on Saturday

the displeasure of opposing supporters, or at the turf that has already been vacated.

Nevertheless, he still represents a formidable mobile barricade in front of a back four that was initially, contrastingly penetrable. Robson covered all the errors committed principally by Pallister, another to defy an ailment. "How he got through to the end was a miracle," Ferguson said.

Rangers, looking as though they might repeat their startling 4-1 victory at Old Trafford on New Year's day,

were restricted to Impey striking an upright before United belatedly uncovered their own attacking intentions.

They, and particularly Giggs, never carried out the threats, though, and it was their opponents who finished the stronger.

Robson, by then weakening after an absence of a couple of games, dropped back as a protective measure. In doing so, ironically, he might have conceded a penalty when he apparently held Ferdinand back from a menacing cross.

Perversely, the free kick was instead awarded in favour of United.

The tug was perhaps an act of desperation and Gerry Francis, the manager of a Rangers side that has soared from 21st place to ninth in four months, sympathises.

The captain of the long-time leaders of the first division 16 years ago appreciates the power of Robson's present emotions.

"I know how desperate he is to win it," Francis said. "There isn't much to choose between them and Leeds. I think it will go to the wire

and, the longer it goes on, the more it will come down to which ones keep their nerve."

Robson's is forged of steel but he is not certain to be fully fit for the visit to Carrow Road. Nor are Phelan and Pallister but once and Blackmore have served their suspensions and Parker has not yet been ruled out.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS: S. Sharpe, D. Bardsley, C. Wilson, A. Impey, D. Pescod, J. McDonald, R. Wilson, J. Holloway, L. Ferdinand, S. Allen, S. Parker, J. McEneaney, P. Sutcliffe, M. Dorey, D. Irvin, S. Bruce, M. Phelan, G. Parker, S. Johnson, J. Karakuluski (sub: L. Sharpe), B. McClair, M. Hughes, R. Giggs, J. Martin.

## Chapman's miss could be costly in final analysis

Leeds United 0  
West Ham United 0

By IAN RANS

son, the Leeds manager, said wryly. "If you score as many goals as he does, you are going to miss some chances."

A goal for Leeds at that point would possibly have precipitated a victory of enormous proportions for, while West Ham had attacked with speed and conviction on the break, the "floodgates" theory had been prevalent all afternoon.

It took Leeds more than 30 minutes to recover from Chapman's indiscretion but, by the time they had brought to bear their superior technique and greater vision, West Ham were defending with resolute authority.

The remarkable rise from obscurity to prominence of Leeds United over the past three seasons has been due, in no small part, to Chapman's consistency as a goalscorer, but it is his occasional shortcomings that have so lessened his appeal to successive national managers.

On Saturday, his failure to convert the simplest of chances may well cost his club the League title.

A game of predictable intensity had reached its twentieth minute when Leeds fashioned the one move that would have convinced any unbiased observer that the two teams were indeed separated by the length of the first division table.

Cantona's magnificent reverse pass was so cleverly disguised that the West Ham United defence was still in the process of attempting to implement a rudimentary offside trap as Batty scampered away down the right flank.

Although Batty's route to goal was unimpeded, he sensibly declined to shoot before sweeping the ball across the face of goal into the path of Chapman who, with perfect timing, had arrived at the far post.

Driving the most precise of passes wide of the target seemed to be almost impossible but Chapman succeeded.

"At least he was there. Some players didn't miss at all today," Howard Wilkinson.

## Deane makes most of mistake

Sheffield United 2  
Liverpool 0

By PETER BALL

RONNIE Whelan arrived at Bramall Lane on Saturday for his first full League game since August proclaiming his belief that Liverpool could still win the championship. They then proceeded to show why they will not, going home empty-handed from a game they dominated for long periods because Bruce Grobbelaar had one of his rushes of blood.

For the first 43 minutes, Liverpool had looked in a different league to Sheffield United. In the 44th, Grobbelaar raced 40 yards to beat Davison to Cork's flick. Typically, he then wanted a touch too many to embellish his reputation as a footballing genius.

On the three occasions Leeds did threaten to claim a decisive goal, Milenko responded superbly, turning aside, with great athleticism, the efforts of Cantona, Newson and Chapman.

"West Ham are fighting for their lives at the bottom of the table and you wonder why that is after a performance like that," Wilkinson said. "It is true that results do take on a special significance at this time of the season but nothing has changed dramatically at the top of the table and I am pleased with our point."

However, with just six games left to play and with the destiny of the title likely to be decided not by skill but by basic mistakes, Leeds may ultimately rue Chapman's horrendous lapse in concentration.

Meanwhile, Mel Sterland, the England international full back, will take no further part in the pursuit of the League championship due to an ankle injury. He will go into hospital tomorrow for corrective surgery on severely damaged ligaments.

LEEDS UNITED: J. Lewis, E. Cantona, D. Bardsley, C. Parker, J. Newson, J. Milenko, R. Wilson, J. Holloway, L. Ferdinand, S. Allen, S. Parker, J. McEneaney, P. Sutcliffe, M. Dorey, D. Irvin, S. Bruce, M. Phelan, G. Parker, S. Johnson, J. Karakuluski (sub: L. Sharpe), B. McClair, M. Hughes, R. Giggs, J. Martin.

WEST HAM UNITED: L. Milenko, R. Wilson, T. Bruce, C. Parker, S. Johnson, J. Karakuluski (sub: M. Adams, J. Gaskell, S. Goss (sub: P. McEvoy)), R. Barnes, K. Bennett.

## Tottenham given fine

GENOA: Tottenham Hotspur and Feyenoord were both fined by Uefa, the governing body of European football, after crowd disturbances during their European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final tie in The Netherlands earlier this month. Tottenham were fined £5,000 after their supporters burned a Feyenoord flag and the Dutch club was fined £7,000 because its supporters left off fireworks and threw objects on to the pitch during the game.

Torino, the Italian club,

were fined a total of £15,500 for firework offences in both their Uefa Cup games against BK 1903 Copenhagen this month, because objects were thrown on to the pitch, and for bad team behaviour in the first match. BK 1903 were also fined £2,000 for firework offences in the opening leg.

Aslona Villa will today complete the signing of Trevor Berry, aged 17, from Bournemouth for £50,000. Berry, a former England youth international, has been unable to play the top six managing to

win a first-team place with the third division club.

## Arsenal left regretting earlier stumbles

By PETER BALL

BEFORE Saturday's games, a BBC commentator volunteered the view that this was the weakest first division in memory, adding the failure of other teams to mount a serious challenge for the championship despite the faltering performances of the two leaders. Soon enough his point was made, only Arsenal of the top six managing to

Plough Lane and Arsenal were two up after only seven minutes against Wimbleton, young Parlour scoring in the first minute and Wright soon following suit. Although Earle pulled one back, Campbell confirmed a convincing victory. How the champions must be regretting earlier inconstancies.

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbleton manager, may regret his verbal attack on a linesman after suspicions of offside for the first two Arsenal goals.

Kinnear is already appealing

against an £1,800 FA fine after a previous skirmish with a linesman this season.

The result took Arsenal to fifth as Manchester City's run without a goal extended to four matches. Perhaps both of Clive Allen's former clubs this season were missing him, because Chelsea could not score either. They were grateful for a point at Maine Road, after their recent setbacks. Beasant made fine saves from White, Sheron and Brennan.

Before Christmas, Aston Villa briefly suggested that they might mount a challenge

but they faltered as scoring goals in the League became to prove an almost impossible task.

Saturday brought some relief, Steve Staunton scoring their first goal in six League matches in only their third this year. 11 minutes from time. That was enough to give them victory over Norwich City, whose thoughts may have been elsewhere. They play Manchester United at Carrow Road tomorrow and have an FA Cup semi-final with Sunderland on Sunday.

## Entford's

Statistics

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Fourth division: Lge FA LD On Tm

Second division: Lge FA LD On Tm

First division: Lge FA LD On Tm

Statistics

Three division: Lge FA LD On Tm

Fourth division: Lge FA LD On Tm

Second division: Lge FA LD On Tm

First division: Lge FA LD On Tm

Statistics

Three division: Lge FA LD On Tm

Fourth division: Lge FA LD On Tm

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Three division: Lge FA LD On Tm

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Statistics



MONDAY MARCH 30 1992

Gemmill's second goal settles a compelling final of the ZDS Cup at Wembley

## Forest's flair tames the beast

Nottingham Forest..... 3  
Southampton..... 2  
(det. score at 90 minutes 2-2)

By STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE beauty and the beast fought over a snip of a trophy at Wembley. Mercifully, the Zenith Data Systems Cup was collected in extra time by Nottingham Forest, who represent all that is aesthetically pleasing in the game, and not by their rugged and ill-disciplined opponents.

The competition, though rightly treated by the public as an unwelcome irrelevance, invariably finishes with a rousing final. Yesterday's was no exception. Never can there have been a more dramatic contrast between, not only the sides, but also the fluctuation in their fortunes.

For an hour Forest, parading their vastly superior talents, turned the miserably wet and cold afternoon into a sparkling exhibition of measured distribution and bewilderment movement. Although they had lost their inspirational captain after only 15 minutes, the absence of Pearce proved to be of no consequence.

Southampton were there, apparently, to make up the numbers and, given their appalling disciplinary record which includes five dismissals this season, there was no guarantee they could manage to do even that. It often seemed, anyway, as though they did not have their full complement.

Gemmill, with a spectacular volley, and Black, with an equally precise drive, scored before the interval and Forest should have built an even more emphatic lead after it. Nevertheless, so clear was their dominance that the misses by Sheringham, Black and Keane were evidently meaningless. But Southampton, using the tedious tactics they know best, suddenly became a productive, rather than an outplayed, force and transformed the complexion of the final. Striking an endless succession of long balls and fighting (sometimes, literally) for possession, they responded with two headers from Le Tissier and Moore.

The source of both goals, typically, were set-pieces and Forest all but crumbled beneath the ensuing barrage directed at Marriott, their brave 21-year-old novice of a



Stepping carefully: Walker, of Forest, evades the prone Shearer while Sheringham, left, and Chettle look on at Wembley yesterday

goalkeeper. Yet he kept them in contention with startling saves from Hurlock before extra time, and from Dowie, during it.

By then Forest had regained their composure and, after Keane and Sheringham had almost claimed the winner, Gemmill did so by volleying in Charles's chip. He confessed that during the warm-up he had persistently been "shanking my shot all over the place".

Watched for the first time by his grandfather and coached by his father, he thus crowned a glorious day for his family. His father, Archie, the former Forest, Derby, and Scotland player, said: "It is a great day for everybody concerned and not just Scott and myself. We are all emotionally drained because it's been a tremendous team effort."

Yet Forest's celebrations could not be sustained. The game, a convenient dress-

rehearsal for the Rumbelows Cup final against Manchester United on April 12, was the first of four in six days. Intolerable fixture congestion is the price they must pay for success in domestic cup competitions but, to accompany their fatigue, they left Wembley with £100,000, the disproportionately lavish prize for lifting the trophy.

Southampton, themselves competing in their ninthteenth cup-tie, earned £40,000 as the runner-up.

The sum will be of meagre compensation if they also lose their struggle for first-division survival. Presumably, their approach will remain as physical as usual. Moore epitomised it near the end. He ran some 30 yards to upend Marriott and became their 68th representative to book it this season.

Hurlock had earlier been the 67th for committing one of 23 of Southampton's fouls. By contrast, Forest conceded just ten.

SOUTHAMPTON: T. Flowers, J. Keane, P. Bonas, B. Horne, K. Moore, N. Ruddock, M. Marriott, G. Coughlin, A. Shearer, I. Dowie, T. Hurlock.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: S. Gemmill, G. Charles, P. Pearce, S. Moore, S. Dowie, N. Chettle, D. Walker, R. Keane, G. Crosby, G. Gemmill, N. Coughlin, E. Sheringham, K. Black.

Referee: K. Hascall.

Leaders falter, page 32  
Newcastle triumph, page 33

## PFA steps up pressure

By PETER BALL

THE Premier League found itself under attack on several fronts yesterday as the threat of a players' strike moved nearer. The Football League insisted that the players' demands for ten per cent of television fees were fully justified, while Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association (PFA), accused his Premier League opposite number, Rick Parry, of "dirty tricks".

Brendon Batson, Taylor's deputy, deplored the refrain as he complained bitterly about the letter Parry sent last week to the 22 first division chairman. The letter advised them to tell their players that the settlement of the dispute was in sight and suggested that they should advise the players to think carefully before voting for a strike.

"They are trying to interfere in the process of a legally-conducted ballot," Batson said before setting out for last night's PFA awards dinner. "It is a dirty tricks campaign. They have asked the chairman to have a word with the

players saying everything is in place, which is just not true.

"The letter said they should think carefully because they would damage their relationship with the PFA — a terrible thing to say. It is interference with our membership."

Parry, who left no doubt about his personal courage by attending the dinner in London last night, was quick to reject the accusation. "It was just a case of stating the facts," he said. "Personal jibes have got to stop. We ought to decide this on the issues."

"We said in the letter that our meeting last Friday was likely to guarantee the players' pensions, preserve the rules and regulations and give them a place on the executive officers' committee, all of which we have done. I call that stating the facts."

It is, of course, not unknown for employers to try to exert influence over their workforces in industrial disputes, so Taylor's rage may be somewhat synthetic. There is little doubt that Parry's letter was aimed at the PFA another

weapon in a propaganda war they seem sure to win anyway, given the personalities involved, and it might even be counter-productive, with the suspicion that an intervention by not a few club chairmen could turn previously wavering moderates into screaming militant strikers within five minutes.

The attack from the other quarter was even less surprising, although it may cause some embarrassment for Sir John Quinton, the chairman of the Premier League, and in his day job of Barclays Bank, who are the Football League sponsors.

"We are not directly involved," Andy Williamson, the assistant secretary of the Football League, said at the Zenith Data Systems Cup final between Nottingham Forest and Southampton at Wembley yesterday, "but we want the two parties to get the dispute resolved."

The sting was in the tail. "It could be resolved quite simply by the Premier League accepting the arrangements which the PFA have with us."

## Faldo masters the putter at the right time

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN PONTE VEDRA, FLORIDA

NICK Faldo knew as he set out to protect a one-shot lead in The Players Championship here yesterday that he is back on course to reclaim the long rather than one which, by lengthening yourself, takes some of the feel away. So far, so good.

Faldo, of course, knew he would be placed under pressure as the final round unfolded because Ian Baker-Finch, Davis Love III, Fred Couples, Nick Price and Tom Watson were among those snapping at his heels.

Couples, the man of the moment, compiled a course record of 63 — eight birdies and one eagle — on Saturday to emerge as a contender for the \$324,000 first prize. If he won he would take his official winnings this season to more than \$1 million.

José María Olazábal held a share of the lead with Faldo after nine holes of the third round but he lost a ball in a tree at the 10th. There he took seven, although it might have been more if an official had applied the lost ball ruling rather than allowing him to take a drop under the tree for an unplayable lie.

The reason, of course, is that Faldo is not immune to suffering on the greens and the painful process of missing putts put naturally took its toll. His search for a cure ended when he arrived here and met the man from Ping. That company might be involved in a prolonged courtroom conflict with the US PGA Tour, but there is no question that they manufacture putters of exceedingly good quality. Many players will testify to that and Faldo is now one of them.

He took possession of one of their models at the start of this week and, after months of soul searching and sheer hard work, the putts began to drop.

One of 30 feet at the 15th provided him with his fifth birdie, although the six-footer he holed for par at the 18th was mentally more rewarding. It gave him a total of 206, 13 under par, and a one-shot lead ahead of Phil Blackmar, a 6ft 7in American.

David Leadbetter, Faldo's coach, suggested Faldo used a longer putter — 35.5 inches rather than 34 inches — for better posture. "The idea is that I can release my right side through the putt," Faldo said. "It means that I've dug out my '89 stroke, when I did

myself in a propaganda war they seem sure to win anyway, given the personalities involved, and it might even be counter-productive, with the suspicion that an intervention by not a few club chairmen could turn previously wavering moderates into screaming militant strikers within five minutes.

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THE THIRD ROUND SCORES (US unless stated): 63: N Faldo (GB), 63, 63, 67 204; P. Love (USA), 67, 68, 69, 67; D. Love (USA), 67, 68, 69, 67; I. Baker-Finch (USA), 67, 68, 69, 67; C. Couples (USA), 73, 71, 68, 65; M. Smith (USA), 69, 72, 68; N. Price (USA), 71, 67, 69; M. Broady (GB), 67, 70, 69, 68; T. Watson (USA), 68, 69, 68, 67; G. Olazábal (Spain), 68, 69, 68, 67; T. H. Morris (GB), 68, 69, 68, 67; M. Stewart (GB), 68, 70, 71; C. Parry (GB), 67, 68, 73, 69, 205; M. Calcavecchia (USA), 68, 69, 68, 71, 204; T. H. Morris (GB), 68, 69, 68, 71, 205; A. Williamson (GB), 68, 69, 68, 69, 69, 206; J. Quinton (GB), 68, 69, 68, 69, 71, 207; P. Blackmar (USA), 68, 69, 68, 71, 208; B. Lohr (USA), 68, 69, 68, 71, 209.

Daly in trouble for going too quickly

By PETER BALL

We didn't try our hardest, supposedly, but I was concentrating most of the time.

"Greg Norman and Mark O'Meara took one hour 26 minutes to play the final round of the Tour Championship at Pebble Beach in 1988.

"They were not fined and they were running, with their caddies throwing clubs to them. They were also warned to slow down on the course; we were not. If I had been out first today, on my own, I could have worn tennis shoes and aerobic shorts and been round in 45 minutes."

Daly, who met Beman on Thursday, made news several weeks ago when he swore during a television interview.

Calcavecchia said that Daly had been told by Beman that he would be fined if he continues to refuse requests to attend press room interviews.

"I'm never tired of the spot, but it just seems everyone is now more interested in my private life rather than my golf," Daly said. "If you want a soap opera, watch TV... I can't believe the fine."



Hlasek: sealed win

## Champion unable to rescue holders

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

FRANCE, the holders, were eliminated from tennis's Davis Cup yesterday when Thierry Champion proved unequal to the role of national hero. Champion's four-set loss to Jakub Hlasek in the first of the reverse singles sealed France's fate, giving Switzerland an unbeatable 3-1 lead in their quarter-final.

Switzerland had to get through the qualifying event to make the world group this year, and have never before reached the last four.

Four-time champions Sweden, who had already reserved their place on Saturday, wrapped up a 5-0 whitewash of Australia yesterday and were waiting to see if the United States 2-1 leaders over Czechoslovakia, would

have had several chances to beat Hlasek and keep France in the match, played in the Roman amphitheatre at Nimes. He held six set points in the third set, all of which Hlasek saved, and was 5-3 up and serving in the fourth before Hlasek

pulled back to take the match 6-3, 4-6, 7-6, 7-5.

Champion had two perfect role models in the forms of Henri Leconte and Guy Forget, the heroes of last year's final victory over the United States and also of Saturday's doubles. Leconte and Forget, both playing despite recent injuries, had kept alive a slim hope for France when they beat Hlasek and Marc Rosset. On Friday, Champion lost to Rosset and Arnaud Boetsch went down to Hlasek.

It is, of course, not unknown for employers to try to exert influence over their workforces in industrial disputes, so Taylor's rage may be somewhat synthetic. There is little doubt that Parry's letter was aimed at the PFA another

weapon in a propaganda war they seem sure to win anyway, given the personalities involved, and it might even be counter-productive, with the suspicion that an intervention by not a few club chairmen could turn previously wavering moderates into screaming militant strikers within five minutes.

The instant reaction of the Barcelona organisers, already over-stretched to contain the competitors within a 10,000 limit, was that they could not accommodate 125; that it would have to be reduced to half that. With South Africa readmitted to the fold, there is no sense in such numerical restriction, contrary to present qualifying standards, of a famous sports nation.

Kaba M'baya, chairman of the IOC's apartheid commission and leader of the delegation here, said, after a two-hour meeting with Nocsa: "The Springbok must be laid to rest."

Last week, the NOC announced that it would be sending a team of 125 competitors and released the names of 41 from seven sports — all white. The selection committee, under the direction of Professor Hawksworth, chairman of the yachting federation, has repeatedly stressed that se-

which is a special case." The delegation, which recommended South Africa's reinstatement this time last year, will recommend a team of not less than 100.

Yet Nocsa was also given to understand that there must be more consideration for non-white competitors; that South Africa was readmitted in the promotion of the spirit of the Olympic movement; and that this spirit had to be reflected in the composition of a non-racial team not exclusively

white. The balance was partially corrected by the qualification on Saturday of three black runners for the marathon. In the national championships in Cape Town, the first three were Abel Mokibe, Zithulele

and Jan Tan, all from Transvaal. All were within the qualifying time of 2min 14sec. The women's race was won by Colleen de Reuck, the only woman with a qualifying time. She is white.

The delegation, which has meetings with Nelson Mandela and President de Klerk today and tomorrow respectively, expects to resolve differences over uniform, flag, emblem and anthem for the Games. It is expected that the uniform will be conventional green-and-gold, the anthem will be the neutral Olympic hymn, and the flag an interim Nocsa flag with all-round acceptability, prior to the determination of a new national flag.

## South African Olympic team may be limited

FROM DAVID MILLER  
IN JOHANNESBURG

SPAIN wants to cut the Olympic quota of South Africa. An International Olympic Committee (IOC) delegation is here anxiously campaigning on South Africa's behalf for the Games in Barcelona and, simultaneously, telling the new South African Olympic body, Nocsa, to put their house in better order. The Barcelona organising committee is trying to limit the team; and, at the present time, those selected are all white.

Not only is this double controversy threatening the stable constitution of the country's first team for 32 years, but black and white

influences remain divided over the traditional Springbok emblem — a symbol that, however innocent, is anathema to the majority of non-whites.

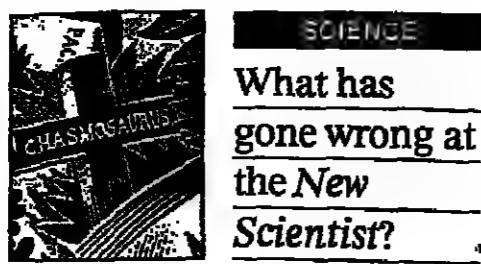
Muleki George, vice-president of the national Olympic committee (NOC) and president of the ANC-affiliated National Olympic Sports Congress, said yesterday: "The Springbok must be laid to rest."

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SCIENCE  
What has  
gone wrong at  
the New  
Scientist?



# LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY MARCH 30 1992

1X A

SPECIAL OFFER  
Big savings on  
luxury hotel  
weekend  
breaks: page 8



## The selling of the Prince of Wales

DIANA LEADBETTER

From holistic medicine to holey cheese, Prince Charles has a view. But, Kate Muir says, a much more profound side of the king in waiting is about to be marketed

*"It is usual to think of him as a typical figure of Victorian England, the keeper of the artistic conscience of his country... In building and decoration. Nevertheless, his acceptance as a prophet in art was not immediate. Though a substantial part of his criticism was written before he was 35, he was considered to be something of an amateur, a rich dilettante, until after he was 50... His puritanical conscience never let him rest easy in the enjoyment of his unearned wealth."*

**T**hat was part of a potted biography of John Ruskin, the writer, critic and artist, but it could just as easily be applied to the present Prince of Wales, the orator, critic and (amateur) artist. Lacking a Ruskin or even a Bertrand Russell in these times of thinning British intellectual debate propped up here and there by Americans such as Francis Fukuyama, we are left with Prince Charles as one of the few non-political figures around who can still cause a commotion.

Indeed, the man is only truly happy when he is poking his finger in pies where it is least expected. His staff say he refers to himself variously as a "one-man NGO" (non-governmental organisation), a "single person pressure group" and a "caveman". He talks of his "batties with the Establishment", as though he were not part of it. He once said that he rather enjoyed "throwing a proverbial royal brick through the inviting plate glass of pompous professional pride".

As the Prince's own all-encompassing philosophy takes final shape, the targets for such brickbats have grown, and so has the furor caused. But the problem remains that his multiple campaigns — on architecture, the environment, philanthropy, complementary medicine, education, art, organic agriculture, and most recently, tyrophilia (cheese-loving) — suggest flightiness. Should these be interpreted as evidence of galloping eclecticism, or expressions of a consistent theory?

Prince Charles would plump for the latter. He is irritated that a philosophy of life which is clear to him should be so muddled by others; that he should be lampooned as "cranky", "dotty", "mystical" and "New Age", when all the while he is thumping away on the same theme. He is completely misinterpreted as frustrated and in search of a role, according to his private secretaries. In fact, he has found that role and has embarked, as prince, on a crusade.

That much may be obvious to him, but his subjects deserve an explanation: it is felt by those who run the Prince's affairs and char-

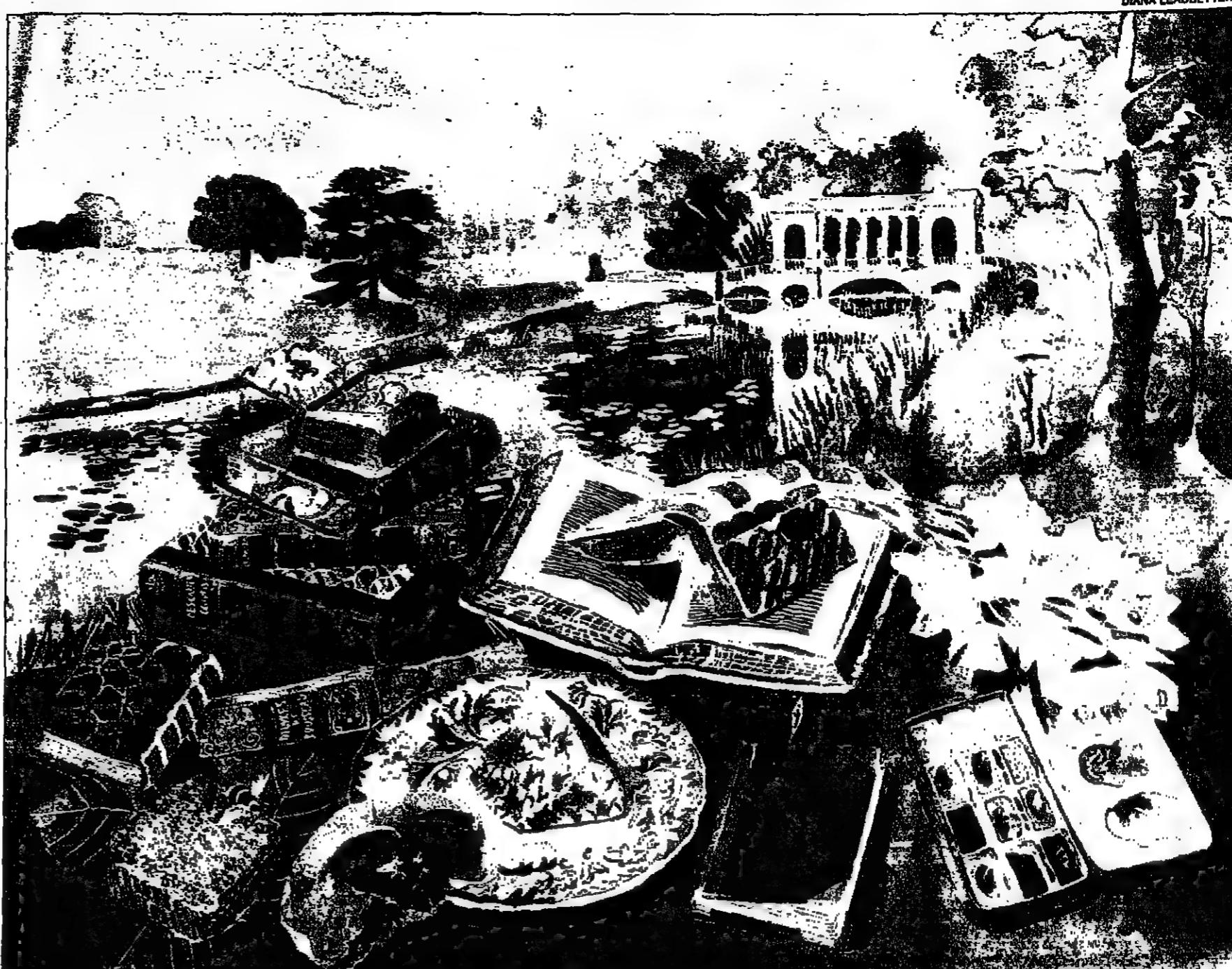


**C**  
His activities  
are to be sold  
as a single  
concept, with  
a logo of a  
crowned letter C

around by "mystorous" and "architectural" Lufwaffe"; they mean little, but read in full they are worthwhile. Almost without exception, they are anti-materialist, and reject what the Prince perceives as the soulless, amoral and mechanistic modern world. Few are without a quote from Wordsworth, Shakespeare, Plato or Eliot. All espouse a cosmology which is daringly unfashionable.

"We must attend to the more profound and timeless values which are always the hallmark of true civilisation," he tells an audience at Budapest University in 1990. Throughout its trials, "the soul of Hungary and of nearly every individual Hungarian has remained alive, free and, if anything, stronger than would have otherwise been the case... Never lose that spirit and inner identity, I beg of you."

Back in Marylebone, London, addressing doctors, he adds: "What I am in favour of is the harnessing of the best aspects of ancient and modern medicine to contribute towards the most effective healing of the patient's mind and body". And to psychiatrists: "I believe we need to be reminded occasionally that wisdom has a far more profound meaning than just the acquisition of knowledge in the mod-



An idealist looking for an idyll? According to his private secretaries, the Prince of Wales found his role a long time ago, and has now embarked upon a crusade

ern scientific-materialist sense".

On the environmental front, he tells farmers that they are not running "just another business" but are engaged in the "long-term stewardship of a precious natural resource". He asks businessmen to deny themselves "some of the pleasures and conveniences of the consumer society" in the interests of saving the global environment for future generations.

There is no question of a speechwriter providing these consistent pleas for the return of the soul. These are the Prince's own words, although he consults an ever-changing round table of unpaid experts on the subject of each speech. After all, who else would risk such bad jokes or phrases like "bacteriologically correct" and "the malformed Gruyere Comte, the odorous Font L'Évêque" when condemning the bureaucratisation of cheese?

Some speeches reveal more than others. One, in January this year at the inauguration of the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture is "most significant", according to Kathleen Raine, the poet and friend of Laurens van der Post who has published the Prince's theories in her *Temenos* magazine. The speech mattered so much to the Prince, he spent the night rewriting it, and more than anything else, it explains his crusade.

He begins with his unspoken fears, when younger, that there seemed to be an orchestrated campaign to destroy the traditional foundations which human values had been based on for thousands of years. As he grew older, he felt he dared not express his true feelings "for fear of being thought ignorant".

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Jonathan Porritt, the former director and now adviser to Friends of the Earth, recalls when the environment department invited the Prince to open the North Sea Conference in 1986. Instead of using the bland, prepared welcoming speech, the Prince did his own research, with the help of his own experts, which embarrassed the government into making pledges on pollution control.

The Prince's forthcoming speech to the London meeting of the Brundtland Commission on April 22 is expected to be another

humdinger. It will cover international issues, particularly population control, the migration

Continued on Page 4

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**TOMORROW**  
What is bugging Scotland?

## Will your only legacy be upset, confusion and paperwork?

Without a Will, your wishes could count for nothing.

Without a Will, the State could take everything.

Without a Will, your family could lose out.

Without a Will, the tax office could easily benefit.

Without a Will, you can't remember your friends.

Without a Will, you can't remember Christian Aid.

Without a Will, life may be difficult for those closest to you.

Without a Will, life may be impossible for those far away.

If you would like to find out how easy it is to make a Will, send for our free booklet 'A Will to Care' to Christian Aid, Freepost, London SE1 7YY or phone Glenn McWatt 071-620 4444 ext 2226.

Name Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**Christian Aid**

## It's a grate life here if you don't weaken

I think I have found a new career. More than found one: I will have founded it. I am going to set up the world's first consultant psychotribologist.

If you are a good solid back-page reader, you are already a jump ahead of me, crying "Yes! we need psychotribology now!" Last week this newspaper introduced plain tribology to a wider public on the occasion of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers' new War on Wear campaign. The word comes from the Greek "tribein", meaning "to rub", and is the study of things which rub against each other, which grind and squeak at one another's hostile surfaces and throw off shavings of swarf. If we could lubricate them better we would save energy, prevent mechanical breakdown and be £1.5 billion a year richer. So that's tribology: oiling the wheels of industry.

And psychotribology? Well, you know already. Just look around you, at the way your colleague on the left keeps sniffing at his Vick inhaler, and the one on the right is rearranging her drawerful of heat little paisley-patterned boxes marked PAPERCLIPS and PERSONAL. Psychotribology has to come. After all, if £1.5 billion a year is being lost through squeaky

ball-bearings and incompatible cogs, how much more is being wasted on the capacity of human workmates to rub each other up the wrong way, present jagged and damaging surfaces and generally get up one another's noses?

What is the point of installing an expensive new executive, finely engineered at Insead and Harvard Business School, if he is going to waste half his energy grinding horribly against the rough surfaces of his ex-workers "basically, I'm a barbary-boy" managing director? Why take such trouble polishing job descriptions for a new PA, only to offer her up to a departmental head with a personality like coarse sandpaper and a work pattern designed by a committee of Heath Robinson and Jeffrey Bernard? On the other hand, why waste your time on an anti-harassment code if the tolerances of your employees are all equally crude, and the girls' foul-mouthed cogs than the boys?

Actually, I suspect that a good three-quarters of sexual harassment cases are due to nothing but poor psychotribology. When a doctor accuses a partner of public fondling, or a woman erupts with fury at being consistently called "sweetheart", it is not straightfor-

ward sex warfare. There can be antagonies stronger and less rational than any mere passion. Stray phrases betray it: "She had an unfortunate manner". "He had always thought he was too good for the job".

Sex itself is a squeaky wheel: sometimes the very presence of a nubile woman workmate — whose Lycra bodysuit is, in fact, a statement about having lost 12lb. not about sexual capacity — can deeply infuriate men whose own love-lives are a bit ropy and who come to work partly in order to stop thinking about Lycra and panting lips. If they harass her, it could be that her very presence is — tribologically speaking — harassing them first. It is no excuse, but it is an explanation.

And remember, just as you can be chivalrous and loving towards a direct rival with whom your gears mesh smoothly, so equally can you fall into a frenzy of hate about a quite innocent colleague. For all kinds of weird reasons: because she has a silly accent, because she always wears four-inch spike heels, because she keeps on agreeing with you and saying "Well, this is it". Or because his shoes squeak or purpose (we are not in rational areas here); because he has a deep, annoying, masculine Freemason sort of laugh that makes you want to assault him with a crowbar; because he has pictures of three grinning kids on his desk and you have an access battle over yours. Add a habit of tunelessly humming *Abide with Me* under the breath, a hot summer's afternoon and a frustrating meeting and you have all the ingredients for a good Agatha Christie stabbing any day.

**TOMORROW**  
Mid life Neil Lyndon



**WORKING LIFE**  
Libby Purves offers to  
oil the wheels  
of industry

**THE ROYAL BALLET:** Covent Garden's resident company makes its annual visit to the region, with a sold-out programme in Bristol. On offer is Kenneth MacMillan's wonderfully passionate *Miranda* and a triple bill of Ashton's cool *Monks*, MacMillan's *Checkov* and Winter Dreams. **ROYAL OPERA:** The notorious *Boat* ballet, *Symphony* C, *Bristol Hippodrome*, St Augustine's Pempe, Bristol (0272 259441), 3.30pm.

**DEBZÓ RAKH:** The elegant Hungarian dancer gives an attractive lunchtime programme which includes extracts from his competitive Gyorgy Kurtag's *Games*, Haydn's *Flute Variations* and Beethoven's *Sonata* in E flat, Op 31 No 1. There is live relay on Radio 3.

5.30pm, Smith Square, London SW1 (071 222 1061), 1pm.

**SOUND OF MUSIC:** A new Wendy Toye production of the sugary family musical goes on a countrywide tour and reaches Stratford's White Hart Theatre. **ROYAL OPERA:** The notorious *Boat* ballet, *Symphony* C, *Bristol Hippodrome*, St Augustine's Pempe, Bristol (0272 259441), 3.30pm.

**MY FAIR LADY:** The Lerner and Loewe musical gets an invigorating new look from stage designer David Fielding (teaching to work with English National Opera's *Madame Butterfly*), and director John Caird. **CONAN EDWARD:** Far east in the "Pax Harrison" role of Professor Higgins, and Helen Hobson makes an extremely likeable Eliza Doolittle. The production has a new album. **Selfish:** Mark E Smith and company bring their caustic lyrics and vicious humour to Cambridge, the final stop on a March tour. **CORN EXCHANGE:** Wheatsheaf Street, Cambridge (0223 357851), 5.45pm.

**ON APPROVAL:** Penelope Keith in a new series of drama readings, co-written and co-produced Edward De Souza, Judy Cullen and Michael Cochran, under director David Gill.

**THEATRE ROYAL:** Sawclose, Bath (0225 446844), 7.30pm.

**LES LIASONS DANGEREUSES:** The Royal Shakespeare Company in a touring production of Christopher Hampton's celebrated adaptation of the French classic, with the sexual power games of the Parisian aristocracy pre-Revolutionary France. **Stephen Deoben** directs; sumptuous 18th-century designs by Bob Crowley.

**ANGELS IN AMERICA:** Strong performances in Tony Kushner's longish but vigorous drama. **Adidas, religion, politics, everything** (Hampstead Theatre), South Bank, SE1 (071 928 2222), Tonight-Wed, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 1.30pm.

**THE COTTON CLUB:** An impression of the Harlem nightspot: high on energy, low on story. **Intensity, The Adversary**, WC1 (071 535 2422), 7.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 1.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 2.30pm, 2.10pm.

**THE CHINAWALKER:** Linen conspiracy in Ontario: violence, abuse, grisly strong stuff, served straight. **Gate** (Prince Albert Pub, Pembroke Road, WC1 (071 229 0709), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, 1.30pm).

**DEATH AND THE MADMAN:** Julian Bleasdale, Michael Byrne, Simon auditor in Ariel Dorfman's Chilean political drama. **Best play of 1981** (Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071 838 5122), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 1.30pm).

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# The hit parade of 1892

What excited West End audiences a hundred years ago?

David Robinson on the highlights of a brilliant season



Above: Marie Lloyd, the 21-year-old sensation of 1892

If there was any one "golden age" of live performance in this country, the 1890s might be considered a strong contender. A glance through the theatre and musical programmes of London in 1892 gives the impression that our forebears actually a hundred years ago were living in a theatrical and musical paradise. Henry Irving ruled at the Lyceum and Marie Lloyd (aged 21) and Dan Leno were the stars of the Drury Lane pantomime. Mr and Mrs Beerbohm Tree played Hamlet and Ophelia, while Sarah Bernhardt gave her most brilliant London season. The year 1892 was also to see the play-writing debuts of Oscar Wilde, Bernard Shaw, J.M. Barrie and Henry James.

There were 30 working theatres in the West End, and as many music-halls, north and south of the river. Each month saw an average of 30 new dramatic productions. Every regional town had at least one legitimate theatre. Amateur drama groups proliferated. The talent that today is dispersed between theatre, film, television and radio was then all dedicated to live performance.

At the St James Hall, the concerts conducted by the great German maestro Hans Richter introduced London to exciting new music from Germany, Russia and Bohemia. *Eugen Osneg* and *Cavalleria Rusticana* had their British premieres. Covent Garden was still exploring new (for London) regions of the Wagner repertory — and in June 1892 a sensational young Austrian conductor made a whirlwind debut in the house. His name was Gustav Mahler.

In fact, distance and nostalgia lend false enchantment. The reality was often less glamorous than appears from the records of the time. In January 1892 the country was in the grip of a killer influenza epidemic; the casts of the London theatres were decimated.

Even for those who were well enough, going to the theatre was

made hazardous by the dense pea-soup fogs that covered London. There were reports of people choked to death by the fumes in the street. The fog even entered the chaly theatres (few yet boasted central heating). Clement Scott, the magisterial critic of *The Telegraph*, remembered how, on these foggy first nights, "the bewildered dramatic critics knotted themselves together en queue and were guided by a desperate and hardy pioneer to the offices in Fleet Street." The journey must have been all the more hazardous, since the London critics were divided by numerous factionalism.

The issue of the conflict was "Ibsenism" and the New Drama. The conservatives defended melodrama, the well-made play and "idealism" against the pessimistic realism of the Norwegian playwright. The British champion of Ibsen was William Archer, critic of *The World*.

Archer had raged unbuttoned since Archer's translation of *A Doll's House* was produced at the Novello Theatre in 1889.

Archer's main ally was the Dutch-born critic J.T. Grau, who in 1891 established the Independent Theatre, to produce works by new dramatists such as Ibsen, Zola and Brandes. Leading the anti-Ibsen faction was Clement Scott.

While the New Critics approved Oscar Wilde's first play, Clement Scott did not. It is hard to know if he was more outraged by *Lady Windermere's Fan* or by the playwright's behaviour at the first night: "Undeterred by manager, unchecked by public voice, unremanded by men, and tacitly en-



couraged by women, an author lounges before the footlights, without any becoming deference of attitude, takes no trouble to fling aside his half-smoked cigarette, and proceeds to compliment the audience on its good sense in liking what he himself has condescended to 'admire.' Yet, Scott feared, 'society at large will rush to see his play.' Society rushed, and most critics praised.

Scott felt very differently about another new playwright, J.M. Barrie, who "does not require

any impertinences of self-advertisement. Mr Barrie will win his way to fame without insolent letters in the newspapers." In fact Barrie's 1892 play, *Widowers' Houses*, was a flop. No doubt Scott had a soft spot for Barrie as the anonymous author of an anti-Ibsen skit of the day, *A Ghost, a Spirited Sketch Not by Ibsen*.

Barrie explained his first excursion into play-writing in the year of 1892: "I turned my hand to play-writing when a great deal of talk

about the New Drama, was under ballot of a new theatre (the Independent) threatened to end in the humiliating discovery that the New Drama, in England at all events, was a figment of the revolutionary imagination. This was not to be endured. I had rashly taken up the case, and, rather than let it collapse, I manufactured the evidence." That evidence was *Widowers' Houses*, which came out in December, 1892, to fan the flames of the critical dispute.

Barrie, Wilde and Ibsen are remembered, while the well-made farces and melodramas of 1892, and Irving's over-upholstered Her-

ry VIII are long forgotten. Yet the most enduring successes of the season were slight things that had nothing to do with the dramatic wars. One was the saucy song "Ta-ra-boom-de-ay", introduced by Little Collins into the Gaiety burlesque *Cinder-Ellen*. Even Clement Scott loved this: "It is a triumph in the art of crescendo. Very gently and gradually the song rises, swells, and surges into its ultimate madness."

The other was an entertainment devised by the actor Brandon Thomas, already the author of half a dozen mediocre plays, *Charley's Aunt*, starring J.S. Penley, opened

inconspicuously at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds on February 29. In the months that it trundled round the provinces its reputation spread. The eventual promise of a London opening evoked some apprehension: "Mr Penley, we are told, appears as an old lady. The idea is certainly humorous, though a man in female attire is apt to be repellent." But when *Charley's Aunt* arrived in London in December, all fears were proved groundless. Its 1,466 consecutive performances set a record that was not to be broken for 22 years, and *Charley's Aunt* is still revived today, a century on.

## THEATRE

### Troubled in mind and body



Toronto, Mississippi  
Finborough  
Earls Court

JOAN MACLEOD's Canadian play takes a hard look at a family with a retarded daughter, a girl of 18 with a mental age of a five-year-old. Not that the family unit is entirely conventional to begin with. Maddie (Jane Moran) is bringing up Jhamie, single-handed, separated from her husband, an Elvis Presley impersonator called King.

Maddie's lodger, Bill, is a young academic and poet, sexually inexperienced, who provides loving companionship for the girl while pining for her mother. The absent King, in his Presley persona, pro-

vides brief musical and philosophical comment to an unseen audience before returning home for a disastrous visit.

The play is at its most powerful when attention centres on Jhamie and the terrible tensions between a child mind and an adult body. Laurissa Kalinowsky draws a marvellous portrait of unchannelled physical energy and bewildered innocence. She is harrowing in depicting a burgeoning, half-conscious sexuality contended with the inability to communicate or hold down the simplest therapeutic job. Her final triumph in telephoning an emergency number and articulating a cry for help not for herself but for hurt people in her home is a nice irony.

MARTIN HOYLE

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Critics most cantankerous

Those viewers who did not read English at Cambridge in the 1950s or 1960s, or keep copies of the literary magazine *Scrutiny* on their shelves, must have been surprised by *Screen Two* last night. Barely a month after the showing of Simon Gray's *The Common Pursuit*, which shared its title with one of F.R. Leavis's books and showed a group of graduates struggling in his shadow, here was Nigel Williams's *The Last Romantics*, which concerned the critic himself.

Which of BBC 2's drama programmes once sat at those sandalled feet and listened to those mumbbling, adenoidal tirades? There are quite a few of us these days, guiltily working for media the great elitist despised.

Jack Gold's production was set in 1969 and showed the Leavis that Simon Gray, another former pupil, remembered in his book *An Unnatural*

derly withering Queenie. Eye glittering, face bunched, tongue baffully spitting judgements she admitted were personal in origin ("the most serious quarrel you can have is a quarrel about poetry"), she held Ian Holm's stricken Lewis in thrall like a snake with a vole half-resigned its death.

For me that was the play's centre, but for Williams it was not altogether so. His Lewis was also under attack from an opposite fanatic: a left student ploddingly poor Tulloch with his view that Eng Lit was a pointless distraction from the class struggle.

The real Lewis was indeed indifferent to politics. Literature was his morality, his religion, his very life. One of the play's troubles was that it did not positively define his criteria of excellence. Another was the implausibility of a Tulloch plot eccentrically ending with the Scot scaling a church tower and seeing how

Lilliputian both Cambridge and Lewis were. Another was that Williams failed to put any of the case for Queenie, an able critic herself. Did he know she was utterly rejected by the Orthodox Jewish family she adored after marrying the agnostic Lewis?

The play must have left many viewers puzzled. Why so much fuss about an academic who these days cuts an even dimmer figure in the public mind than Foucault or Derrida? Yet it takes no great critical knowledge to be touched by the grim pathos of Lewis the man. Gray quoted a description of his last illness: "He was sunk in unapproachable and terrifying gloom. All he said was, 'I'm not feeling chirpy.' His death was a relief." Williams and Holm showed us some of the reasons why.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

ART ON the Underground, the series of posters commissioned by London Underground to brighten the journeys of the capital's much abused commuters, will feature its first non-British artist in May. He

is the Dutch painter Lucas Kuyts, who has provided a striking, predominantly pink abstract of Weeton Hill Woods, Amersham, to mark the centenary of the Metropolitan Line to Amersham. Kuyts is no stranger to the British landscape: he spends part of each year sketching on a converted Bailey bridge amid the Norfolk marshes.

## ARTS BRIEF

### Angel in town

A LONDON date has been announced for *The Blue Angel*, Pam Gems's musical play adaption of the Heinrich Mann novel, which was much admired for its authentic evocation of Weimar Republic decadence when premiered by the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford last summer.

Trevor Nunn's production will open at the Globe Theatre on May 20, following previews from May 8.

#### Hoax goes on

THOSE Hitler diaries won't go away. The 1983 hoax has already been the subject of a British television satire, *Selling Hitler*. Now it provides the story for the current runaway success of German cinema: Helmut Dietl's film *Schön*. The title is a word made up by Charlie Chaplin for the gibberish speeches in his 1940 satire on Hitler, *The Great Dictator*.

In the pink

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## ARTS BRIEF

### The Judas Tree

Covent Garden

Viviana Durante gives the girl, she is equally provocative and supple, and perhaps more pliable, with her thin arms and legs giving the look of a crippled bird.

The two new leading men

arguably made their roles

## DANCE

### New partners in betrayal

The Judas Tree

Covent Garden

clearer than they were before. Zoltan Solymosi does his Bolshoi steps almost as well as Mukhamedov; he seemed more lascivious, more relaxed in his acting, a plausible young gangster where the other suggested a serious man going against his nature. Similarly, William Trevitt, who takes over as the wronged friend, has the strength of

character to play it very gendy but still dominate.

Trevitt, an excellent young dancer, was in all three ballets and looked as fresh finishing Balanchine's *Symphony in C* as when he started the evening in the same choreographer's energetic and intriguing *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*. In this latter he partnered Darcie Bussell handsomely, while Sylvie Guillem and Solymosi brought sparkly zest to the other leads. But in the Bizer *Symphony*, many of the dancers show more exuberance than exactness. The Royal Ballet has much young talent, but some of it needs to be more sharply focused.

JOHN PERCIVAL

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Still learning the art of betting, John Diamond seeks out a gambling expert to explain the British passion for throwing away money

## When your heart goes all a-flutter

**B**y no possible stretch of the imagination is this the members enclosure at Cheltenham. There is no A.J. Kincaid (as in "The intrepid" A.J. Kincaid) or J.P. MacManus (as in "The legendary" J.P. MacManus) or any of the other reckless men in their tweeds and cords and thick-soled brogues, pocketing wads of twenties following a good thing in the fifth. There is no seedy gentleman making an unlicensed and illegal book for those whose pleasure it is to place five-figure sums at longish odds. There is no smell of horseflesh or human sweat or champagne or cut grass or any of the other scents that Jamie Reid tells me brings to live racing action a sense of the erotic.

In fact, as far as I can tell, this is as near to erotic as Mr Reid can imagine any racing experience being. We are in a basement bookies in Soho full of Italian waiters crumpling their failed betting slips in their fists and spitting "Che stronzo!" at the television screen as their horse limps home last, and jabbering Chinese cooks divining the winner in the next race at Brighton from its jockey's running number rather than the horse's form.

I have dragged Mr Reid, the author of a new book on the British love affair with the turf, into Ladbrokes to show me how to make a bet — or, more accurately, how to make a winning bet. He should be a useful tutor: aged 37, Oxford-educated (rare, despite Mr Reid's apparent belief that the on-course betting industry is almost entirely staffed by the sons of ministers and former public schoolboys), sometime racing correspondent of a heavyweight Sunday newspaper and *Private Eye's* "Major Bonkers". Mr Reid has been laying bets since his grandmother showed him how to dial her bookie when he was seven.

Even so, Mr Reid is dubious. Because we are in a bookies and not at the track, asking for advice is rather like my giving Richard Rogers a box of Lego and asking him to show me how to build a Pompidou Centre. Mr Reid grimaces, sucks his bearded lower lip and looks around the television monitors high on the walls of the little room. "I suppose we could try Brighton," he says. "It's a cheerful enough little course, but..." He looks down the list for the Roedean Handicap as shown in the *Sporting Life* which sits under his perspex cover by the counter. Mr Reid is obviously not comfortable with the race. The problem, it seems, is not

just that a bookies shop does not have the erotic excitement of a race track, but that you can't really get what Mr Reid keeps calling a "value" bet. "This is real blind betting, of course. It's just for fun. Right this looks like the nearest you'll get to a value bet." He puts a tenner on Truthful Image at 2-1. I put twenty on Appealing Times. Between us we lose £30.

I'd always vaguely assumed that the odds shown on the TV monitors at a bookies were a reasonable reflection of a horse's chances of winning and that if a horse was marked up at 10-1 it meant that the bookie believed that the statistical probability was that if the same race was run ten times

### HEAVY BETTING

The races where most money was staked in 1991 were:

1. Grand National Handicap Chase — Aintree
2. Derby Stakes — Epsom
3. Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase — Cheltenham
4. Eclipse Stakes — Sandown
5. 2,000 Guineas Stakes — Newmarket
6. King George VI Chase — Kempton
7. Champion Hurdle — Cheltenham
8. Welsh National Handicap Chase — Chepstow
9. Oaks Stakes — Epsom
10. Triumph Hurdle — Cheltenham

**Source:** Ladbrokes

the horse would win once. Equally, I'd always assumed that the punter's eternal incarnation "only the bookie always wins" was based on the belief that the men at Ladbrokes, William Hill and Corals — the big three bookmakers — could reckon the chances of a horse winning a race better than the average punter. Not so.

In fact, as Mr Reid explains it, the odds are a direct reflection of the amount bet on each horse and are arranged by the bookies so that however much they have to pay out to those who have backed the winner, they will always take more from those who have picked losers. Mathematically it is a fairly easy equation to prove. In the Roedean Handicap there were five runners: their prices when we bet were 7-4 and 2-3, 6 and 8-1. A quick calculation (dividing the right-hand figure in any given odds by the two figures added together) shows that a horse running at 7-4 ( $4 \times 100 / (7+4)$ ) has been deemed to have a 36.4 per cent chance of winning the race. Do the same calculation

to their obsession: the men in Ladbrokes are dealing in no more than luck.

Massaged odds aside, there is the question of Satellite Information Services (SIS), the company that broadcasts the odds and the races to the TV monitors in the betting shops. "In the old days, before the government changed the puritanical rules that banned lavatories and comfortable chairs and hot drinks and TV sets from betting shops, the odds came over on a loudspeaker from Excel, which was a totally independent organisation," Mr Reid says.

SIS, on the other hand, is part-owned by the big three, and there are regular numberings among the heavyweight punters that the occasional time difference between the odds being made at the course and them getting back to the betting shops is less than

accidental and is there to give the big three's on-course representatives time to lay their bets and influence the odds.

**A**s a punter himself, though, Mr Reid's main complaint is that the modern bookies shops are guileless: they simply won't take the big bets that are the mark of the betting hero. "You see the ante-post odds advertised by the big three in the trade press in the morning and one of them looks good value. So you phone them up and say I'll take £5,000 at 12-1, and they say, 'Sorry, but all the twelves have gone', as if the bet was a marketable commodity which they'd sold out of."

This business of betting vast sums of money on individual horses has created the mythology of punting which Mr Reid finds so exciting. The stories in

his book are of on-track bookies, such as the original William Hill himself, who would think nothing of giving odds on £50,000 bets, and of professional punters who would think nothing of losing that amount. And it seems to me that every labourer taking the afternoon off to watch his ten bob yankee collapse in the local Corals imagines that he is part of that same mythology.

"We need that excitement, the three minutes of pumping adrenaline, the beating heart," Mr Reid says. The man at the Tot window is by some atavistic extension, pitting his wits against those of the horse. I suggest to Mr Reid that an animal witness enough to take a chance over the crippling Chair at Aintree next weekend makes a pretty poor adversary, wit-wise. "Well there is that point of view, but I see it as pitting wits against the

bookmaker rather than the horse."

"Most of the people in here," Mr Reid says looking round the seething shop, "are just having fun. Britons enjoy betting. They are in love with betting. But none of the people in here are risking their homes, or will finish up the afternoon slashing their wrists." None the less, he insists that gambling is most fun when it really is risky. "Yes, I have bet more than I can afford," admits Mr Reid, who refuses to divulge how much his gambling costs him each year, "and I have had that feeling of blind panic when a horse on which I've bet a large amount loses."

Like all of the working gamblers I've ever met ("An investor rather than a punter, if you like, although I've always disparaged that term when others use it"), Mr Reid describes losing money with as much, if not more, relish than he describes winning it. He is no fan of the Freudian theory that gamblers are only happy when they are losing, but his description of the gambler's rush in his book — "an intense and pervasive combination of greed, bravura, excitement and fear" — is the sort of thing that gives psychologists a field-day. Punters may not enjoy losing, but there is always that feeling as the punter watches the fifth horse of his accumulator go down, that losing is the grown-up, manly thing to do.

Only when Jamie Reid writes a book which tells heroic tales of intrepid men gambling their all, winning, and retiring on the proceeds, will I be entirely convinced by the magnificence of his obsession.

• *A Licence to Print Money* by Jamie Reid is published by Macmillan (£17.50) on April 10.

## 'He is adept at targeting his audiences'

Continued from page 1  
of refugees, environmental controls and the duty of the northern countries to finance sustainable development in the south.

Such speeches take time to write, and the Prince draws on a varied pool of advisers, depending on the expertise he needs.

On environmental issues, Commander Richard Aylard, the Prince's private secretary, is acknowledged by Mr Porritt as occasionally being better read than himself. "The Prince is adept at targeting his material according to different audiences," Mr Porritt says. "He is interested in the Jungian theory that the collective unconsciousness is what shapes society, but he will tone down the more spiritual aspect and stick to hard facts if that's what's required for a speech. He is circumspect, too, about who he endorses."

The Prince steers clear of the wackier elements of the Green movement. Although he has met Richard Lovelock, the creator of the Gaia theory of the earth as a living organism, he does not consult him.



Behind the scenes: some of Prince Charles's best work is done away from the publicity his speeches attract

away during the recession. Leon Krier, the anti-modernist architect who designed Prunthorpe says the Prince is

bureaucracy around him, and if he wants to change direction, it is like turning a huge ship.

"It may be slow," Mr Krier says, "but he has turned the tide in architecture; created a debate where there were just

by protocol. It is always 'Sir'. The position weighs heavily on Prince Charles. Indeed, his desire to change the state of

Prince Charles's reign will be quite different from his mother's, if his present operation is anything to go by. No longer does he accept a diary filled in by unthinking ex-Army gents, or give speeches written by civil servants from government departments. Instead, there are vast brainstorming sessions with experts in each field, and his private office will prepare research and the first draft, but the final version bears the royal stamp.

**H**is closest adviser is Commander Aylard, in overall charge of the Prince's affairs, who takes a particular interest in conservation and the environment. The deputy private secretary is Peter Westmacott, dealing with education, architecture and European tours. The two assistant private secretaries are Hugh Merrill, who deals with Business in the Community and The Prince's Trust, and, most recently Belinda Harley, a former PR, whose portfolio includes the arts, health and heritage.

Their role in relation to Prince Charles is rather like senior civil servants to a government minister. They go on tour, sift the 2,000 or so letters a week, field invitations and requests for patronage, and research or find suitable experts to consult in their areas. At the end of each day, their labours result in a vast box of paperwork, which the Prince

water". If the response is good, and the Prince feels he has struck a chord, the action hots up. Occasionally, interest is such that the Prince thinks it worthwhile to put across his views in a film, the last two being *The Earth in Balance*, and the architectural critique, *A Vision of Britain*. Coming up next year is his book on organic farming and gardening and the first draft, but the final version bears the royal stamp.

Since the early 1980s, when the Prince launched his first assault on the architectural and medical professions, he has grown in confidence and stature. The initial signs that the variety of interests were symptomatic of a want of concentration seem to have faded. He knows his stuff, or at least, he knows his pet experts. The apprentice king, with time to educate himself, has developed a consistent line of thought.

Of course, some of his subjects are convinced Prince Charles's theories are outlandish, if not barking mad. The spiritual and philosophical aspect of his crusade is considered either embarrassing, or half-baked in some parts of the realm, and debates are unfairly weighed in his direction, for no ordinary citizen would gain such a hearing. He is acceptable when fenced in by constitutional requirements of neutrality, but the day he slips into politics the response may be less benign.

Yet even the staunchest vic-

Stuck in an ugly office?  
Design kits offer a way  
to soothing interiors



Setting patterns: Joanna Macrae

## Striking mix and match

**C**ompanies will soon have no excuse for choosing boring beige or safe grey to improve their corporate image — they will be able to call on an interior designer-in-a-box. The box of tricks which creates instant off-the-peg schemes is the invention of Joanna Macrae, a Perthshire interior designer, who has put together 250 carpets, wall coverings, upholstery and curtain fabrics which all co-ordinate throughout any six colourways. It is, she claims, almost impossible to mismatch any of the parts.

The six colour brackets — yellow, blue-grey, terracotta, heather pink, green-turquoise and creamy-beige — each have a selection of patterns and textures which cross-refer to the various colour boards. All the designs are textured or patterned, avoiding the severe blocks of solid brown upholstery which blight so many offices.

For a £60 fee businesses can acquire the hatbox-sized kit containing samples of all the products, as well as advice on how to put a decorative scheme together. Mixing, which could produce up to 40,000 variations on a theme, Ms Macrae says, will limit the chances of companies hitting on the same corporate image. "What it amounts to is a tapestry effect, where combinations produce different colour emphases," she says.

Ms Macrae believes more thought should be given to matching the use of colour to the type of work being done in a room. "Vibrant colours make workers tired and strident contrasts can contribute to tension," she says. "Subtle patterns, which provide a soothing backdrop, can help people feel that their office is generally a pleasant place in which to spend a day."

The "Case for Design" is not only intended for the high-street solicitor looking for a foolproof design package, but for other professional decorators and for architects. Ms Macrae's company, Northwood Designs, has been specialising in corporate and hotel contracts for the past ten years. "I became more and more frustrated that I had to go outside Britain to get the exciting and interesting fabrics I wanted," she says. "We seemed to be stuck on hard colours in this country, emerald green and pub red, rather than the soft, subtle tones and textures which work so much better."

There is, in some employers' minds, a feeling that since coffee will inevitably be spilled, it is as well to make the decor match," Ms Macrae says. "I find that if you give people a pleasant atmosphere to work in, they tend to be more careful."

JOAN SIMPSON

Authentic period interiors are taking starring roles in a generation of films and television series

## And now, an Oscar for the wallpaper

**T**he television series *The Camomile Lawn* turned a house on a Cornwall cliff into a star. Now Merchant Ivory's film adaptation of E M Forster's novel *Howard's End* gives a wisteria-covered cottage near Henley in Oxfordshire a starring role.

Ismail Merchant, the producer of *Howard's End*, agrees that the presentation of a special house is emblematic of Merchant Ivory films. More essentially, property and location are fundamental to the plot of *Howard's End*.

*Howard's End* was published in 1910 and tells the story of two families — the emotional, cultural Schlegels and the unimaginative, conventional Wilcoxes. The drama is played out against the backdrop of the middle classes' fashionable approach to home decoration.

The meticulous attention to period detail and pictorial lushness of previous Merchant Ivory productions have evoked the comment from the director Alan Parker that these are "Laura Ashley films". This time the scene is set — literally — by the wallpaper and fabric company Sanderson.

The painstaking research required to create authentic Edwardian interiors fell to Luciana Arrighi, a production designer who trained at the BBC and has designed sets and costumes for opera, theatre and films in England, Europe and Australia.

Her work on other period pieces, including *The Return of the Soldier* and *My Brilliant Career*, meant she was already well versed in Edwardiana. For *Howard's End*, Ms Arrighi drew on

# Shoes soar to new heights

The Seventies revival has brought in its wake what many women most dreaded. But the platform shoe is taking off, reports Brenda Polan

**F**ashion may be cyclical but there are certain aberrations which would seem certain never to be recycled. The platform sole is one such. After all, the world is full of women with scarred knees and embarrassed memories of being betrayed by their footwear.

However, unlikely as some may find it, a major wedge revival is underway. The final official sanction has been bestowed by Karl Lagerfeld, whose autumn ready-to-wear collection shown in Paris last week features deep-soled leather boots. They roused nostalgic shudders in some of those who were hip in the early Seventies — but not in all of them. In the front row both the editor and deputy editor of *Vogue* were wearing platform soles by Maud Frizon and Stéphane Kelian respectively.

It is several years since Vivienne Westwood reintroduced platforms to a seemingly unresponsive world, and only the young British designer most heavily under her influence followed in her teetering footsteps. High-street shops such as Sacha and Derber started selling platforms a year or so ago. Now the upper end of the market is tentatively stacking its soles, too.

"There is," says Paul Lennard, designer for Derber and Sacha, "going to be a platform explosion this summer, and, although we were using a wonderfully light synthetic material for last winter's platforms, for summer we are going back to using wood and cork, as they did in the 1940s."

He says, however, that the shoes will better engineered this time. "In the Seventies many shoemakers simply stuck another sole on to the bottom of a conventional shoe. The balance was wrong — that's why women toppled. This time technological advances have enabled us to get the balance right."

Early 1970s woman clambered on to platform soles as part of a droopy mid-skirted 1940s revival and discovered the joy of getting above armpit-level in a crowded room. She wore her clompy ankle-wrenchers with everything, especially her pavement-grazing loon pants and trailing ethnic skirts. When fashion moved on, beneath wedge-wearers wandered unrecognised among acquaintances who had never before seen

them from above. Some of them, like The Queen, The Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, never did quite manage to give them up.

Platforms in general and wedges in particular are a very strange phenomenon when one reflects that a dainty foot is one of the ideals of feminine beauty constant through most cultures. The secret of their allure is in the extra height they impart. Height in both men and

women, is attractive. Forget the ludicrous effect of the giant Minnie Mouse feet (cute, says M Lennard reprovingly); consider instead the illusion of six extra inches of leg. Moreover, tall people are not overlooked; they have presence. Looking down on the rest of the species

— or at least being able to look it in the eye — makes men and women feel in control.

Another revival of wedges was inevitable once fashion designers began playing with the shapes of the 1970s. The timing was right, too," says Shelly Robbins of Shelly's Shoes which produces designs by Helen Storey and Ghost as well as Katharine Hamnett, John Richmond and Jean-Paul Gaultier.

"People are bored with flat shoes. Silettos are difficult to wear and, for young women, associated with tartness. Wedges are a natural progression for people who like wearing Dr Martens and large trainers."

As with so many of fashion's excesses, this one had practical origins. The first platform soles were tie-on affairs designed to keep ill-fitting feet out of the mud. The affluent may have adopted them for practical purposes, but redesigned and exaggerated them for reasons of vanity. In 16th-century Venice, where flooded streets were the excuse, patterns reached such heights (as much as 18 inches) that ladies of fashion could not stagger out of doors without a dwarfed lackey at each elbow.

The second world war revival of platforms owed everything to a shortage of leather, metal and rubber. Shoemak-

ers were forced to use wood and cork to keep their customers' feet dry and, once again, women loved the extra inches. The great shoemaker of this period (perhaps the greatest ever) was Salvatore Ferragamo who, working in Hollywood in the 1920s, had invented platform shoes to make diminutive stars such as Theda Bara look more imposing. Back in Italy, when wartime and post-war shortages forced designers to improvise, he used raffia, straw, hemp, cork and wood to create towering structures of great ingenuity and beauty.

**W**here Signor Ferragamo's platform shoes differed from those of his imitators was in their perfect balance and comfort. He had studied the anatomy of the foot and comfort was always his first priority. In responding to exigency, however, Signor Ferragamo created not just a practical solution but a sexily one as well. Fashion historian Colin McDowell, author of *Shoes: Fashion and Fantasy* (Thames & Hudson) speculates that there is an erotic charge to the idea of a fragile female foot in a far from fragile shoe.

There has always been an erotic charge to anything which encumbers women and makes them more vulnerable and less agile. But this is clearly not what women sought in Dr Martens and trainers. They loved them for their comfort and tough-guy image. But the boredom threshold of the fashionable is low and women have always been prepared to suffer in the cause of fashion. "One of the best sellers this summer," says M Lennard, "is the wooden clog with a leather upper riveted on. Customers are going for the crudest, most extreme styles."

At Ferragamo, where Salvatore's daughter, Marchesa Fiamma di San Giuliano Ferragamo, is head of design, this spring's designs include a few minimal one-inch platforms. "It is clearly," she says, "part of the Seventies look. Women like it because it makes them look taller and it makes their legs and ankles look slimmer. But I do know that many men do not like it on women."

The man with the long view, Colin McDowell, predicts a brief foray for the 1990s platform. "Women may be prepared to put up with some discomfort for the sake of fashion. But not for long. They have learned to value comfort and agility too much."

Setting patterns: Joanna Macrae

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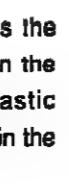
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Further particulars are available from the Administrative Secretary, Social Studies Faculty Centre, George Street, Oxford OX1 2RL, to whom completed applications (eight typed copies or one from overseas) should be sent by 30 April 1992.

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Further particulars may be obtained from the Senior Tutor, St. Hugh's College, Oxford OX2 6LE (0865-274918). The closing date for receipt of applications is 27th April 1992.

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History

# EDUCATION TIMES

In the second of a series of election reports, Matthew d'Ancona looks at student woes of frozen grants, axed benefits and rising debt

## Voters can give hungry students food for thought

**S**ix centuries after Chaucer wrote of the needy Oxford scholar, hollow-cheeked with penury and melancholy with hunger, students are still complaining about their lot. Twenty thousand of them marched through London last month in protest at hardship in higher education, hoping to sway the parliamentary committee which was then considering the future of student support.

In the event, the committee reached an unexpected impasse and decided to publish little more than a dossier of evidence. The questions which the enquiry was supposed to have addressed have, in effect, been delegated to the electorate.

Students were a favourite target in the stern climate of the 1980s, caricatured as privileged leeches on the body of the welfare state who gazed the taxpayers' millions and then demanded more. But now, as examples of real hardship multiply, the picture is less clear.

"Most people see students as troublemakers or drug-smokers," says Judith Faul, aged 22, who is reading linguistics at the University of East Anglia. "It annoys me because it's difficult enough to study without worrying about money. What do you do if you don't know where the next meal is coming from?"

Miss Faul fell ill at the end of last year and was urged to suspend her studies until she recovered. As a result she lost her grant, and now owes her local authority £500. In spite of this, she cannot claim income support. She is able to budget only £10 a week for food, cannot afford over-the-counter medicines, and has almost exhausted her savings.

Hard cases are often dismissed as exceptional. But current statistics confirm that the levels of debt afflicting students can no longer be laughed off as the character-building prelude to a comfortable gradu-

ate career. The average overdraft at UEA is now £1,000, according to its student union.

A survey published last month showed that 49 per cent of students at the London School of Economics and Political Science were in debt and that 18 per cent owed more than £1,000. Similarly bleak findings were released in January by the Polytechnic of the South West, Plymouth.

David Ingram, vice-chancellor of Kent University, says that the problem is clear, although difficult to quantify. "I have the general sense that students are being hit by the removal of housing benefit and the freezing of the grant, and we're noticing that more are running up debt." The public do seem to feel this time that the students have a case.

Part of the problem is the nature of this recession which has not spared the middle-class heartlands of the south-east. Some 21 per cent of the respondents to the LSE survey said that one or both of their parents had been out of work at some stage in the past two years, a factor which has naturally taken its toll on parental contributions to grants. At the same time, students are no longer able to rely on casual vacation work for extra income.

The grant itself has failed conspicuously to keep pace with inflation. In real terms, the current annual award of £2,265 outside London is 24 per cent less than it was in 1978, and has been frozen since 1990. Student loans have offset this decline to some extent, and are being taken up by increasing numbers of students.

This month, the government announced a 25 per cent increase in the maximum loan, keeping the "grant-plus-loan" package — the basis of Conservative policy on student support — above inflation. But, the National Union of Students complains, even the top-up loan leaves little room to breathe, citing its recent survey which showed that students spent 74 per



Banner headlines: 20,000 students marched through London last month to protest about grants

cent of their income on rent in 1991-2.

Both Opposition parties are committed to the abolition of loans and an increased grant. Labour would immediately use the funds released from the loans system to push up the real value of the award, while the Liberal Democrats go further in promising to phase out the parental contribution altogether and introduce an entirely new student income entitlement, supplemented by a student allowance.

Perhaps the most immediate funding question facing the next government will be the tangle

caused by the withdrawal of benefits. A £25 million access fund was set up after students lost income support and housing benefit in 1990, although the year before they had claimed at least £68 million in these entitlements. Over-subscription to the new fund has already led colleges to borrow from resources allocated for future use. The Liberal Democrats would restore the withdrawal benefits, while Labour favours targeted housing assistance and will shortly announce plans for vacation support.

The re-structuring of higher education and the massive drive for

low-cost recruitment mean that students (and their parents) have much to lose in the years ahead. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said recently that lack of state aid may force universities to impose a top-up fee of £1,250 on every student.

In 1963, the Robbins report declared that "higher-education courses should be made available to all those who are qualified by ability and attainment to pursue them". The lot of students may not be a major issue in the election; but its result will be a crucial test of this once-hallowed dictum.

## Photos miss full picture

**F**urther and higher education has featured in the election campaign largely as a photo opportunity for the party leaders. Fleeting conversations with students, surrounded by the most modern technology, presents just the right image for television news.

Debate on the issues has been much harder to find, perhaps because the recent passage of the Further and Higher Education Act has exhausted the campaigning possibilities. The Conservatives had most to say on the subject in their manifesto, but they had no new proposals to make.

Labour is yet to mount its education offensive, although it is already committed to the establishment of a Higher Education Standards Council and to a reform of student finance. The Liberal Democrats propose to widen the brief of Her Majesty's Inspectors to include universities; to introduce diplomas for students wanting less than a full degree course; and to abolish courses for part-time students as part of their student finance package.

Apart from the parties' long-standing differences over student education, offers an unusual degree of consensus. The contentious subjects in post-school education are those which usually pass the electorate by: further and adult education.

The main parties have been trying to outbid each other on the scale of expansion. The Tories are committed to increasing by a third the proportion of school leavers going on to degrees and higher diplomas, while both Labour and the Liberal Democrats promise to double the number of students. All parties accept (but hardly stress) that the result will be larger teaching groups and more crowded campuses.

The main point of the Further and Higher Education Act involved the promotion of polytechnics to university status. The Tories have taken the credit for the change, but there has been little capital to be made since their opponents supported the policy. Opposition to student loans may

be more widespread, but is still likely to be concentrated in predominantly middle-class constituencies.

The National Union of Students has tried to overcome the difficulty of an out-of-term election by encouraging postal voting. It has targeted 70 marginal seats where its members could be influential. The union claims that 60,000 students have registered for postal votes, although it is not possible to verify its figures.

Conservative defeats in student constituencies have been few and far between, even in term-time elections, but the other two parties believe parental concern over student finance could swing seats. Tory candidates must hope that the improved take-up of loans indicates acceptance of the principle.

They must hope, too, that opposition among traditional Conservative voters to changes in adult education funding will not resurface before polling day. The strength of feeling against the division of adult education courses into broadly vocational and recreational categories does not appear to have been sufficient to override party loyalties on the main campaign issues.

The same may go for further education, which is a less obvious vote-winner for Labour. The party is promising to maintain local authority responsibility for more than 500 colleges, which have been granted independence. Most further-education principals relish the opportunity to emulate the success of the polytechnics, although there is less confidence at the sixth-form colleges, which will also become independent.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats promise corporate status for both types of college, but see advantages in maintaining traditional local links. Labour proposes to involve the Training and Enterprise Councils in a new planning network, while the Conservatives would implement plans for a national funding system.

JOHN O LEARY

## History in the making

**S**t Albans cathedral has expanded its historical teaching to include the Black Death and Peasants' Revolt



Where there's a quilt: how they wrote in medieval times

Most are in the form of historical role-plays with costumes, cleverly-chosen props and beautifully-produced badges of office. The medieval craftsmen's trail, for example, centres on the construction of the building and involves the use of building materials, chisels, saws, mallets and planes which the children are encouraged to handle and, where possible, use in situ.

They offer an impressive range of carefully-researched off-the-peg activities, with programmes such as Black Death and Peasants' Revolt fitting in with National Curriculum requirements. These activities are backed up by visits to schools and substantial information packs.

and heraldry. They are not offered in isolation, but form the focal point of a wide-ranging experience.

Ms Ainsworth believes the centre's strength is its ability to respond to the precise needs of a particular group. Recently it has tailor-made programmes on the Five Senses, Shapes Old and New, the Victorian Classroom and even Vikings.

"We have to cater for all sorts of requests and abilities. Some children are thoroughly prepared before they come here and obviously they get more out of a visit," she says. "Others know nothing and we have to adapt accordingly. That's where the training comes in."

Ten thousand children passed through the centre last year and demand is increasing. Running costs are a mere £45,000 a year and charges to schools a minimal £1 per child per activity.

Unlike wealthier establishments such as York Minster, St Albans cathedral can offer only modest financial support to the enterprise. The centre is appealing for £300,000 for equipment and to give the salaried staff security of tenure.

Canon See believes the centre is at the most exciting point in its history. "We have proved the centre's value with infant and junior age-groups, but there are huge areas to tackle in higher and further education, not least in training teachers who know how to use places like this. There is also scope in colleges of art, architecture and building. The possibilities are endless."

**SUSAN STURROCK**  
St Albans Cathedral Education Centre 0727 804738  
Heritage Education Trust: 081 892 0051

## LONDON GRADUATE RECRUITMENT FAIR

More than 100 exhibitors have booked places for the London Graduate Recruitment Fair in June at the Business Design Centre in Islington. The eventual total is expected to exceed 150.

The fair forms the first part of New Directions Week '92, partly sponsored by *The Times* and *The*

*Sunday Times*. Graduate recruitment is the theme from June 30 until July 2 and the Schools Fair follows on July 3 and 4. Some 45,000 people are expected to attend the two events.

The organisers, London University's careers service, have extended this year's fair to include postgraduate

institutes, colleges offering vocational programmes and providers of specific skills courses as well as employers. At least four countries will be represented in the fair's European pavilion. Computers will test students' suitability for various careers, and a "CV surgery" will offer advice on applications.



## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

### APPLIED LINGUISTICS

The University of Strathclyde invites applications for a new post within the innovative Programme in Literary Linguistics. Candidates should have teaching and research experience in Higher Education and specialist expertise in applied linguistics (TESOL). The successful candidate will play a leading role in developing and teaching courses on all aspects of ELT for a new ESL in-service degree programme for teachers and will also contribute to the MLLT in Linguistics for the Teaching of English Language and Literature.

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For application form and further particulars (Ref 35/92) contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XQ. Applications Closing Date: 21st April 1992.

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Further particulars from Director of Personnel Services, The University, PO Box 596, Firth Court, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2LY, Tel 0114 2261442, or write to the same address. Closing date: 24 April 1992. Ref: 22006. An Equal Opportunities Employer

## UNIVERSITY OF READING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Applications are invited from graduates with good organisational and communication skills for two posts of Administrative Assistant (from a date to be arranged in August or September 1992). Initially one post will be in the office of the Faculty of Science and one in the Registrar's Central Office. Salary scale: Administrative Staff Grade 1 £12,129 to £14,339 pa (under review) plus USS benefits.

Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Office, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading, RG6 2AH. Tel (0734) 318751. Please quote Ref. AC. 9207. Closing date 24 April 1992.

## LECTURESHIPS



### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON FACULTY OF LAWS LECTURER IN EEC AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

A vacancy will exist from 1 October 1992 for a Lecturer who will be expected to teach on undergraduate and postgraduate courses in EEC Law. Preference will be given to candidates who also have interests in the area of Environmental Law.

The post will be on the Lecturer B scale £18572 to £23739 plus London Weighting of £2042.

Further particulars may be obtained from Professor B.A. Heggs, Dean of the Faculty of Laws, University College London, Bentham House, Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0EG, to whom applications, including a full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent to reach him by 1 May 1992. Equal opportunities Employer.

### UNIVERSITY OF READING LECTURESHIPS IN ITALIAN STUDIES

Applications are invited for 2 Lectureships in the Department of Italian Studies from 1 October 1992. One post is permanent (subject to a probationary period) and the other for a fixed term of 12 months.

Candidates must be able to teach Italian languages at all levels and have teaching and research interests in Italian literature — applicants specialising in Dante and the Renaissance (including Art) especially welcome.

Salary: £12,860 to £17,827 p.a. (Grade A) for the permanent post and up to £14,339 p.a. for the fixed term post — plus USS benefits for both posts.

Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Office, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading, RG6 2AH. Tel (0734) 318751. Please quote Ref. AC. 9207. Closing date 24 April 1992.

### UNIVERSITY OF READING LECTURER IN CLASSICS

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of Classics from 1 October 1992. Candidates' fields of interest may be in any aspect of Greek culture. Ability to teach courses in Greek art and archaeology desirable. The post will involve responsibility for the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology.

Salary Scale £12,860 to £17,827 p.a. (Grade A) plus USS benefits. Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Office, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading, RG6 2AH. Tel (0734) 318751. Please quote Ref. AC. 9208. Closing date 8 May 1992.

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• Start planning now: choose where you want to go, in Britain or on the Continent, from the hotel listings on this page. Then read the How to Book details, printed on the right.

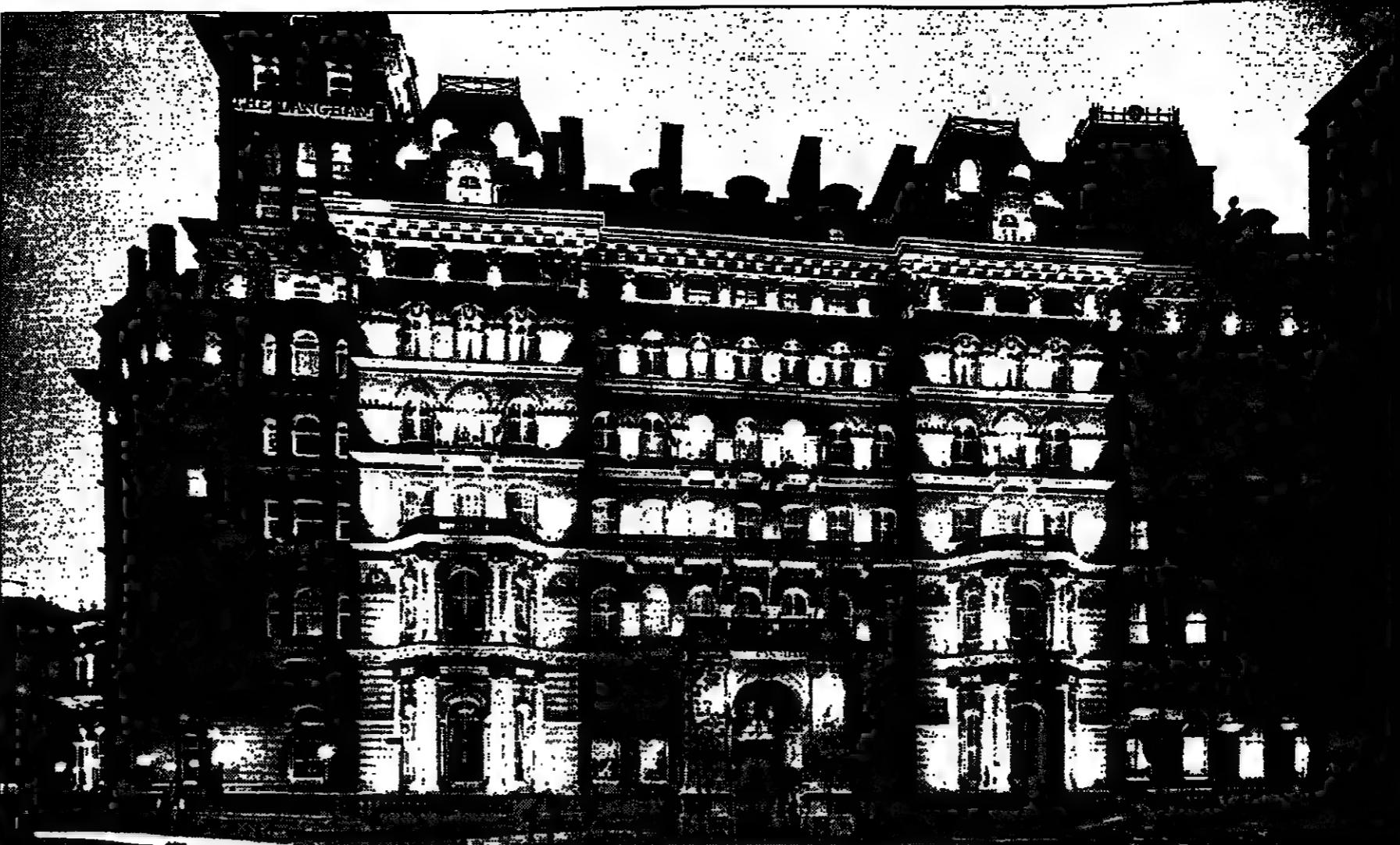
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★ Kensington Hilton	£45.00
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★ Hilton on Park Lane	£63.75


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# Black hole looms for trailblazer

Robin Hunt wonders what tomorrow's world holds for *New Scientist*, the leading science magazine

The *New Scientist* appears this week with no editor or deputy editor listed on its masthead. The features editor has also disappeared, and Roy Herbert, the veteran columnist and author of the most consistently readable feature in the magazine, signed off with a valedictory piece. The world's only consumer magazine about science is starting to look like one of those black holes it is always writing about.

*New Scientist* is 36 years old, a well-established title that over the years has made excellent profits for IPC its owners. Its appeal, even to occasional readers, is in its ability to combine academic scholarship and newsworthiness with a particular quality that some would call English a maturishness.

The tone of the magazine often suggests a dedication to its subject beyond the call of normal journalistic duty.

Now IPC — itself part of Reed International's global publishing empire — has decided to reorientate the title. IPC is aiming to keep the magazine's 100,000 buyers and, over the next few years, add 30,000 to 40,000 who, though interested in science, find *New Scientist* a little too "white-coatish", in the words of IPC managers at the magazine's headquarters on the south bank of the Thames.

Mike Tudball, managing director of IPC Holborn group, says: "The title *New Scientist*, for those who do not know the magazine, says: 'This is a very cerebral magazine... I'm not going to understand it because I didn't do science'."

"But, almost without exception, if you give it to people to read, they come back and say: 'What a wonderful magazine'."

Why tinker with a successful product? *New Scientist* makes money, between £3 million and £4 million a year, it is said; during the latter part of the 1980s, it was the jewel in the IPC crown.

The core of its revenue was astonishingly well-packed classified advertising pages laden with jobs. The recession has hit hard —

revenue is down by a third from the dizzy heights of three years ago — but the magazine still makes plenty.

IPC's managers may also be worried by the possibility that Gruner & Jahr, the German publishers of the women's titles, *Berl* and *Prima*, may be considering starting a popular-science title in Britain this autumn.

Sylvia Auton, the publishing director, who also looks after *Amateur Photographer* magazine, says *New Scientist* must reach out to "businessmen, civil servants and MPs who can't read copy-heavy journals". Hence the redesign, with "a little more white space, more pictures and diagrams, and in content terms more information technology, electronics and communications."

The list sounds suspiciously like a strategy to encourage business to buy display advertising. But Ms Auton says the changes are editorially inspired. "We are not," she says, "just running after a few ads."

Yet confusions loom. Relations between the management and the journalists were described last week as "awful".

While it may seem careless to have no editor or deputy in place during such a rethink, it is not just misfortune that sees the tide also without a features editor. Although described by fellow staff members as "one of the best science journalists we have ever had here", she has left.

Add to this an imminent industrial relations tribunal hearing — Peter Wrobel, the leader of IPC's National Union of Journalists branch, was a *New Scientist* writer who has also been made redundant — and a level of simmering resentment on the shop floor, highlighted by the departure of two more features staff in the next fortnight. The prospects for quick-fire success do not appear rosy.

"Basically," says a former employee, "the staff wanted to keep control of its evolution. So there is great reluctance to make the changes management wants."

David Dickson, the last editor,

is said to have left because he could not stand the cost-cutting restraints imposed by management.

One staffer says: "We need a good leader. David was installed as editor because he would let management make the changes it wanted."

The peculiar nature of the magazine, its range, its depth, its humour, seems to be ending," says Dr Bernard Dixon, a former editor who presided over *New Scientist* between 1969 and 1979 and remains close to the title.

"What's happening there seems to be perplexing a scenario that's extraordinary."

Certainly, staff are dismayed. "We're having to use more and more freelance writers," a long-time staffer comments. "The result is that we have less and less involvement with what goes in."

Mr Tudball says: "We're not going to rush at this. We are evolving not revolving and there's no revolution. Generally, in the Western world, science is no longer 'sexy', it is under-funded."

"Of course *New Scientist* will continue to write about the big ideas. But applied science, technology in particular, is a world-wide reality."

"Our brief is not to lose words; to the core readership, the words are very important. But the number of platforms in the magazine for the debate of issues, soap-boxes for columnists, has grown too much."

"We will introduce more mini-features in the areas we should be beefing up, such as transport, food, energy, business technology; those sections in which science is an everyday reality."

As well as the formal and content changes, Mr Tudball has cupboard that are full of expansion plans. There are deals with European publishers, monthly digest, pages syndicated to regional newspapers in Britain and overseas, growth in the Australian market, and *New Scientist* electronic databases.

The list is impressive; IPC's management obviously sees where it wants *New Scientist* to go.

Whether it will get there with much of its demoralised staff is a question for tomorrow's world.



Natural allies: Forest streams are clear and sparkling... why?

## Japan falls victim to a Western malaise

A ten-year-old computer project is failing to meet its ambitious targets

When the Japanese launched their fifth-generation computer project ten years ago, it shuddered through Western governments. Was Japan about to claim the future for itself with a range of computers that could challenge human intelligence?

The answer, it appears, is no. The project was due to end tomorrow, but has been extended for a year in an attempt to come closer to achieving its ambitious targets.

Although it has some reasonable results to show, the fifth-generation project proves that Japan is not immune to the kind of government-inspired mismanagement of research which is familiar in the West.

The lesson of the past ten years is that sometimes it is better to plan less and leave more to individual initiative and inspiration.

In 1982 the Ministry of International Trade and Industry in Tokyo launched the project to create an intelligent computer with 1,000 processors connected

most 300 researchers, 90 at ICOT and the rest in industry, the results have been disappointing. Companies that have participated in the project now show little interest in continuing.

While Japan has

machines in collaborative ventures with researchers in the United States have produced little.

According to one research worker quoted in *Nature* last week, the fifth-generation machines in the United States are now "essentially doorslams" and are used mainly for electronic mail, scarcely the ambitious targets originally set for them.

Attempts to use the Japanese machines in collaborative ventures with researchers in the United States have produced little. According to one research worker quoted in *Nature* last week, the fifth-generation machines in the United States are now "essentially doorslams" and are used mainly for electronic mail, scarcely the ambitious targets originally set for them.

One particular collaboration went disastrously wrong. The Argonne National Laboratory of the Department of Energy was given



Chip challenge: the Japanese goal was artificial intelligence with a new generation of computers

two fifth-generation machines by the Japanese, with the object of developing software so that the computers could be used to analyse data from the human genome project.

Officials from the DoE stepped in and halted the project, ostensibly because they feared that sharing technology might help the Japanese and irritate Congress at a time when anti-Japanese feeling is running strong. According to

N. H.

# newscientist

14 September 1991 No 1786 Weekly £1.40

ASTER THE Coup  
CHAOS IN SOVIET SCIENCE

## UPDATE

### Farewell flora

FORTY thousand plant species may be lost by the middle of the next century, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation says. Population growth, environmental destruction and the narrowing range of agricultural crops all threaten the diversity of the world's plants.

Last month, Britain's agriculture ministry published a report recommending greater funding for gene banks, and a new strategy for conserving plant genes.

### Martian arts

JAPAN plans to send its first satellite to Mars in 1996. Planet-B will go into a 150-mile orbit around the red planet to measure magnetic fields and plasma particles as part of an investigation of the Martian atmosphere. Japanese Space Activities Commission officials said last week.

### Peat aid

KEW Gardens has endorsed the use of coir, a coconut-based substitute for peat for growing plants in an attempt to reduce destruction of peat bogs. Coir is made by ICI from waste materials left after the long fibres have been removed from coconut husks for rope and matting.

Large piles of the waste, containing 10,000 tons or more, have been built up over the years in Sri Lanka, and are being mixed with fertilisers to create a multi-purpose compost suitable for seeds and cuttings. Though the material is 20 per cent more expensive than peat, ICI believes many gardeners will switch to it.

### Aids trial

SCIENTISTS at Sahlgrenska hospital in Gothenburg are to start clinical trials of a new Aids vaccine within the next six months. The vaccine uses peptides from the outer coating of the virus to elicit an antibody response.

The Swedes hope that these peptides are the same in every version of HIV, and that the vaccine will create antibodies effective against all the strains found in Aids patients.

### Keep off Yew

WOODMAN, spare that tree. California has introduced legislation to protect the Pacific yew from the chainsaw. The yew is threatened because it is the source of a drug, taxol, now being tested against advanced breast and ovarian cancers. Although there are now synthetic routes for creating taxol, yews continue to be felled, according to Byron Sher, a member of the California Assembly.

It takes 340,000 kilograms of yew bark to produce 25 kilograms of taxol at a cost of more than \$600,000 a kilogram.

### Quake warning

DOES the Earth transmit radio signals just before earthquakes? Some scientists think so and believe they could be used as an early-warning system.

Satellites and ground sensors detected mysterious radio waves or related electrical and magnetic activity before earthquakes in



Earthquake tragedy: does the Earth give a warning?

southern California during 1986-87, Armenia in 1988, and Japan and northern California in 1989. The long-wavelength signals seem to be detectable only before earthquakes greater than 5 or 6 on the Richter scale.

### Ozone probe

THE search for holes in the ozone layer over the northern hemisphere by National Aeronautics and Space Administration aircraft has ended, but the results are not due to be announced until next month. The ER-2 aircraft returned to its base at the Ames Research Centre in California last week, where the results will be analysed.

Both the Nasa flights and European studies have shown high levels of ozone-destroying chemicals, but have not yet reported any actual evidence of ozone thinning or of holes.

FIGHTING FUG

MEXICO City, one of the world's dirtiest urban sprawls, is finally taking strong action to reduce air pollution. Cars will be banned for four weeks, follow record pollution levels in the city. After that, the authorities hope, weather conditions will disperse the pollution.

## Purpose of judicial review

**Regina v Independent Television Commission: Ex parte TSW Broadcasting Ltd**  
Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner, Lord Goff of Chieveley and Lord Lowy [Speeches March 26]

Members of the Independent Television Commission had carefully considered the application of Television South West for a Channel 3 licence, in particular with regard to its revenue forecasts, costs and profitability, as well as the amount of the bid.

Their decision rejecting the application on the ground that TSW would not be able to maintain the service throughout the 10-year period of the licence was not one with which the court would interfere by way of judicial review.

The House of Lords stated giving reasons for dismissing an appeal by TSW from the Court of Appeal [Lord Justice Nolan and Lord Justice Steyn, Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, dissenting] (776 Times February 7) which had dismissed their application for judicial review of the ITC's decision to refuse their application for a licence under the Broadcasting Act 1990. The successful applicant had been Westcountry Television Ltd.

Mr Gordon Pollock, QC and Mr Geoffrey Vow for TSW; Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr David Purnick for ITC; Mr Thomas Morison, QC and Mr William J. Wood for Westcountry TV.

**LORD TEMPLEMAN** said that the provisions of the 1990 Act inevitably created a number of problems for the ITC and for applicants.

His Lordship reviewed the facts of the case and concluded that in view of the evidence there was no scope for the court to intervene. The members of the ITC had carefully considered the application and its crucial forecasts of revenue, costs, profitability and the amount of the bid.

They found that in the light of their general experience, and particular experience of the 40 bids for Channel 3 licences, it did not appear to them that TSW would be able to maintain the service for the licence period. They were therefore bound to reject the application.

Parliament might by statute confer powers and discretions and impose duties on a decision maker who might be an individual, a body of persons or a corporation. It might or might not provide machinery for an appeal against a decision, which might be concerned with fact or law or both and might or might not involve the courts of law.

Where Parliament had not provided for an appeal from a decision maker the courts were not to invent an appeal machinery. Here Parliament had conferred powers and discretions and had imposed duties on the ITC. It had not provided an appeal machinery.

Even if the ITC had made mistakes of fact or of law there was no appeal from their decision.

The courts had invented the remedy of judicial review not to provide an appeal machinery but to ensure that the decision maker did not exceed or abuse his powers.

The rules of natural justice did not render a decision invalid because the decision maker or his advisers made a mistake of fact or law.

Only if the reasons given by the ITC disclosed illegality, irrationality or procedural impropriety could the decision be open to judicial review. See *Court of Civil Service Unions v Minister for the Civil Service (1985) AC 374, 410* and *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* [1948] 1 KB 223, 228-229.

The procedure adopted by the ITC for the consideration of applications was admirable. The papers and evidence disclosed that the qualified staff and the experienced members of the ITC carried out their duties properly. TSW's criticisms of staff assessment paper 179/91 only amounted to an ingenious invitation to the court to substitute its own views for those of the ITC and to quash or refer back the decision with an indication that the court was impressed with the criticisms and took a more favourable view of TSW's application than the ITC had done.

Judicial review did not issue merely because a decision maker had made a mistake and it was not permissible to probe the advice he received or to require particulars of administer-

interrogatories, or to cross-examine in order to discover the existence of a mistake by him or his advisers.

Where a decision was made in good faith following a proper procedure and as a result of conscientious consideration an applicant for judicial review was not entitled to relief save on the grounds established in the Wednesbury case.

Examination of the reasons given on behalf of the ITC which had been based on but not dictated by the staff papers did not indicate any mistake of law nor any omission to consider matters which the ITC ought to have taken into account and there was no indication that they were any irrelevant matters.

Even if there had been mistakes in the papers it was plain from the evidence and the papers that the ITC knew all about the forecasts and assumptions made by TSW, knew all about its financial position, the forecasts, assumptions and financial circumstances of other bidders and formed their own view, as they were bound to do, of what was likely to happen in the future and formed the view which they alone were authorised directed and competent to form, that TSW would not be able to maintain their service throughout the licence period.

Lord Goff delivered a concurring speech and Lord Keith, Lord Ackner and Lord Lowy agreed.

Solicitors: Travers Smith Braithwaite, Allen & Overy, Goodman, Derrick & Co.

## Seeking production of material

**Regina v Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court: Ex parte Salinger and Another**  
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Popplewell [Judgment March 25]

When an application was made for an order requiring the production of material for the purpose of an investigation under Schedule 7 of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provision) Act 1989, the approach should be to provide the recipient of the order, as early as possible, with as much information about the evidence relied upon in support of the application as was consistent with the security of the operation.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when dismissing applications by Mr Pierre Salinger and ABC News International Inc for judicial review of orders made by Judge Clarkson, QC, sitting at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court under paragraph 3 of Schedule 7 to the 1989 Act for production of video recordings and documents relating to interviews with the people suspected of being responsible for the Lockerbie bombing.

Sir Patrick Neill, QC and Mr Dominic Dowley for the applicants; Mr Peter W. Clarke for the respondents.

**LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH** said that the relevant parts of the 1989 Act came into force on March 22, 1989 but no crown court rules had been made under paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 7.

Those provisions were no doubt derived from similar provisions in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the expressions "excluded material" and "special procedure material" had the meaning given in that Act.

There was one important difference between the two Acts. Under the 1989 Act application was made *ex parte* but a respondent could apply to discharge or vary the order. Under the 1984 Act the application was made *inter partes*.

The mere change from an *inter partes* application to one made *ex parte* did not bear a great significance. In applications under the 1984 Act the information and its source might be sensitive, although it was more likely to be so under the 1989 Act.

There might indeed be occasions when the nature and identity of the source of information and perhaps also the information itself in the case of a terrorist investigation was of such a nature that it was not appropriate to disclose it even to the judge.

But even if it was disclosed to him, it would rarely be appropriate or necessary to disclose the

nature and identity of the source of information to the recipient of the order; and it was equally inappropriate to disclose it to counsel and solicitors even on an undertaking of confidentiality.

Nevertheless, the recipient of the order should be given as much information as he properly could as to the grounds upon which the time the order was served upon him or, if he decided to make an application to discharge or vary the order, before or at the time of the hearing of the application.

It was unfortunate that no rules had yet been made under para-

graph 4(1) of the Schedule. In their absence the court had been asked to give guidance to those involved in such applications.

The court did so but it had to emphasise that they were not intended to be hard and fast rules, since much would depend upon the judge's discretion as to how information should be disclosed and at what stage.

The *ex parte* application should be accompanied by a written statement of the material evidence upon which the constable wished to rely to persuade the judge that the constable had been justified.

If the judge decided that it was inappropriate for any information other than that which was contained in the order itself to be served, the constable should not disclose the nature or source of the information if, as was likely to be the case, it was sensitive. It should normally remain the nature of the information unless there were grounds for thinking that it was secret and should not be disclosed.

The constable should appear before the judge and be ready to

supplement his statement by oral evidence. It would rarely be necessary or desirable for the judge to enquire into or the constable to disclose the nature and identity of the source of information; but it might well be necessary for the constable to amplify the nature of the information itself, especially if that had not been fully disclosed in the written statement.

If the judge was satisfied that the conditions were met and decided to make the order, he should give directions as to what, if any, information should be served with the order itself.

While it was not essential that such information should be given in writing and could be given orally, it was normally desirable that it should be, and the court would expect it normally to take the form of the written statement from the constable.

In deciding whether the recipient should be given more or less information than that contained in the written statement, or whether no information should be given at that stage, the judge would obviously pay regard to the submission made by or on behalf of the constable. The information should be as full as possible without compromising security.

If the judge decided that it was inappropriate for any information other than that which was contained in the order itself to be served, the constable should be served at the time of an application to discharge or vary being made.

It was clearly desirable if it could be done without risk to

security, that the information should be available to the recipient of the order before the hearing of the application to discharge, since if this was not made available till then it was possible that there might need to be an adjournment.

4 An application to discharge or vary the production order should if possible be made before the judge who made the *ex parte* order. It was desirable that the same officer, if he gave oral evidence at the *ex parte* hearing, should also attend.

In most cases sufficient

information would have been given to the recipient before the hearing of the application to discharge, but if it had not, it might be supplemented by oral evidence from the applying constable or some other police officer.

Questions should not be permitted as to the nature or identity of the source of information. If the nature of the information itself was sensitive in the sense that it might compromise the security of the investigation, the judge should not allow the questions. He should tell the respondent, if it was the case, that he had been given information which satisfied him that the conditions were met; but that the information could not be disclosed.

The overall objective should be

to provide the recipient of the order with as much information, preferably in writing, as early as possible. Indeed this was consistent with the security of the operation.

Mr Justice Popplewell agreed.

Solicitors: Marriot & Co; CPS

## Suitability of home for baby is relevant

**Regina v Medina Borough Council: Ex parte Dee**  
Before Mr Justice Henry [Judgment March 24]

In determining whether it was reasonable for an applicant to continue to occupy her accommodation, the housing authority needed to have regard to the physical condition and the suitability of the premises for all those affected by their decision.

Mr Justice Henry, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, so held in granting an application for judicial review by Miss Alison Margaret Dee and quashing decisions of the Medina Borough Council on April 25, 1990 and November 14, 1991, as to the social housing authority, that the applicant was not homeless within the meaning of section 58 of the Housing Act 1985.

The applicant had a tenancy of a prefabricated beach bungalow. The condition of the chalet had

deteriorated so much that in her view it was unfit for human habitation. She was pregnant at the material time and her medical practitioner and health visitor advised her that the accommodation would not be suitable for her newly born child.

The council, however, did not find the dwelling unfit for human habitation under section 604 of the 1985 Act despite the deterioration of the dwelling as a result of damp and mould caused by condensation.

After the applicant had given birth to her baby she did not return to the chalet but took unsuitable residence at premises nearby. She had then applied to the council for rehousing as a person who was either homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Mr Peter Fowler for the applicant; Miss Mary Cook for the council.

MR JUSTICE HENRY said

that under section 58(2A) of the 1985 Act, as inserted by section 14(2) of the Housing and Planning Act 1986, the question was whether it was reasonable for the applicant to continue to occupy the accommodation.

In the instant case the applicant was a mother expecting her first child. Her doctor had written a letter stating that it was not safe for her to bring her newly born baby to the chalet. Her health visitor had also expressed similar concerns.

Although the dwelling was not found to be unfit for human habitation, that decision did not address the question as to whether it was reasonable for her to have returned to the dwelling with a newly born baby in the face of professional advice. The applicant could not be expected to have overridden the decision of her medical advisers as being too cautious.

Solicitors: Blake Lappington for Robinson Jarvis & Roff, Ryde; Mr Iain Coggins, Newport, IoW.

President of India v Jadranka Slobodna [Judgment March 24]

When a party to a dispute which had gone to arbitration applied to the court challenging the arbitrators' final and separate reasoned award in respect of costs, the court no longer had power to remit the award to the arbitrators for further consideration under section 22 of the Arbitration Act 1950. The proper procedure and requirements were set out under section 1 of the Arbitration Act 1979.

Mr Justice Hobbhouse so held in a reserved judgment in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division when he refused the application of the plaintiff

characters that the final award as to costs made by Christopher Moss and Michael Mabb, arbitrators, on April 24, 1991, should be set aside or remitted to the arbitrators for further consideration.

Mr Peregrine Simon, QC, for the claimants; Mr Dominic Kendrick for the owners.

MR JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that he was bound by the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Bleven Ltd v G. Percy Trentham Ltd* [1990] 42 EG 133 which made it clear that where arbitrators dealt with the question of costs separately, award a separate award, the matter was governed by the 1979 Act.

That decision not only required that a new procedure should be followed in challenging an award on costs but practitioners had also to be aware that at the time of the arbitration hearing they would have to consider whether there might be any decision on costs which they might want to challenge and therefore whether they should ask for reasons, with or without a separate hearing and/or award on costs, and that in practice, it would probably be more difficult to persuade a court to interfere with a costs decision under section 1 of the 1979 Act than it was formerly under section 22 of the 1950 Act.

Solicitors: Gargai Gardi & Co; More Fisher Brown, Stepney.

On Tuesdays the Law Report appears with Law Times in the Business section.

## Challenging arbitrators' order for costs

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## RESERVATIONS MANAGER



BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax (81214) 6.30 Breakfast News (57283498)  
 9.05 Election Call introduced by Jonathan Dimbleby. Labour's John Prescott is questioned by viewers on election issues. To participate, ring 071-799 5000. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (1037295)  
 10.00 News, regional news and weather (8371905) 10.05 Playdays. For the very young (s) (8867030)  
 10.25 The Family Nuis. Monster cartoon (r) (8374092) 10.35 Gibberish. Celebrity word game (s) (9834059)  
 11.00 News, regional news and weather (4516059) 11.05 Rosemary Conley. The health, fitness and diet programme, today from Princes Square Shopping Centre, Glasgow (3456585)  
 11.30 People Today. Magazine series (9240498)  
 12.20 Pebble Mill presented by Judy Spiers (s) (2960127)  
 12.55 News, regional news and weather (6058501)  
 1.00 News and weather (20030)  
 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (4142501)  
 1.50 Turnabout. Rob Curnin presents the quiz game that tests vocabulary (s) (9102607)  
 2.15 Knots Landing. American drama serial (3071837)  
 3.00 The Odd Couple. Comedy with Jack Klugman and Tony Randall (s) (8311479)  
 3.25 Bazaar. Includes financial advice from Alison Mitchell, fashion news from Fiorella Benjamin and Lesley Waters's demonstration of how to cook pasta (632214)  
 3.50 Radio Roo (s) (6299363) 4.05 Jackanory. Patricia Routledge reads Lizzie Dripping and the Witch (s) (5417769)  
 4.20 The New Adventures Of Mighty Mouse (r) (4220189)  
 4.30 Take Two presented by Sarah Greene (Ceefax) (s) (4074045)  
 4.55 Newsround (5523059)  
 5.05 Blue Peter. (Ceefax) (s) (8002585)  
 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (807672)  
 6.00 News and weather (547)  
 7.00 Wogan. With Nigel Planer, Sarah Miles and Natalie Rebecc-Nielsen (s) (4905)  
 7.30 Watchdog. The consumer affairs programme (951)



Fitting their wif's: Karl Howman, Geraldine McEwan (6.00pm)

8.00 Mulberry. Last in the limp comedy series pitting handyman Karl Howman against his cantankerous employer (Geraldine McEwan). (Ceefax) (s) (3653)  
 8.30 Man's Best Friend. Desmond Morris introduces a series about the wildness of apparently domestic pets (r) (Ceefax) (2160)  
 9.00 News, campaign report and weather (367363)  
 9.30 Party Election Broadcast. The Labour party (916721)  
 10.00 Panorama. The leaders. David Dimbleby interviews the Labour leader, Neil Kinnock (995721)  
 10.40 Negrete And Lady American detective series. Christine and Mary Barth investigate the death of a movie queen (r) (Ceefax) (s) (441553)  
 11.30 The Victorian Kitchen Garden. The Beginning. Peter Thoday presents the first of 13 shows in which a walled garden is restored to what would have been 100 years ago (r) (Ceefax) (95856)  
 12.00 Advice Shop. A discussion on the achievements of the Equal Opportunities Commission (r) (1805620)  
 12.20 On The Hustings. Ian MacWhirter presents highlights of the evening's campaign speeches around the country (8432219)  
 12.50 Weather (1910649). End at 12.55

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## SATELLITE

## SKY NEWS

• Via the Astra and Marconiplus satellites. On the hour.  
 6.00am Sunrise (8135059) 9.30 The Conferences (16635) 10.00 News, and Bection Phone-in (14214) 11.30 Rowing Report (20185) 12.30 Good Morning America (17769) 1.30 Good Morning America (17769) 2.30 Travel Destinations (11893) 3.30 Travel Destinations (44301) 4.30 The Report (5108) 5.00 Live At Five (76479) 6.30 The Mary Whitehouse Experience (19585) 7.30 Young Musician Of The Year. Piano semi-final (s) (626547)  
 8.10 Horizon: A Diet for a Lifetime (782837)  
 • CHOICE: A film which touches on social history almost as much as science looks into possible links between the diet of pregnant mothers and the diseases which afflict their offspring have a century long. Professor David Barker of the Medical Research Council is a firm advocate of the theory that the incidence of heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure in adult life can be related to the nutrition taken by the mother before, during and immediately after the birth. For his evidence Barker turns to health records going back to the early part of the century. His findings have not gone unchallenged. There are experts who say that healthy eating and living in adulthood have just as much effect on heart disease and other disorders. In any case no one knows what the perfect diet for a pregnant woman should be (782837)  
 9.00 The Mary Whitehouse Experience. Topical comedy (s) (1030)  
 9.30 The Old Devils. Final part of the Kingsley Amis adaptation with Alan Weaver still writing his Welsh novel (Ceefax) (s) (59585)  
 10.30 Party Election Broadcast by the Labour party (Ceefax) (987547)  
 10.40 Newsnight. News and analysis (156905)  
 11.35 The Late Show. Live arts show (s) (631566)  
 12.15am Weather (767689)  
 12.20 Open News (8423561). Ends at 12.50

## SKY MOVIES+

• Via the Astra and Marconiplus satellites. 6.00am Showcase (354985) 8.00 Frog Girl: A girl boybands school experiments on frogs (31160)  
 THE MOVIE CHANNEL  
 • Via the Astra and Marconiplus satellites. 7.20pm The Great American Game Show (512547) 7.30 US PGA Tour (512547) 7.30 Rock (2214) 1.00 Tennis (56479) 3.00 Rock (56479) 5.00 Motor Rally (512547) 7.30 Rock (56479) 8.00 Rock (56479) 9.00 Rock (56479) 10.00 Rock (56479) 11.00 Rock (56479) 12.00 Outer Limits (7141) 1.00am Pages from SkyNet

## SKY SPORTS

• Via the Astra satellite.  
 7.00am Football Sunday (7127) 10.00 Trans Europe (512547) 11.00 The Big Picture (512547) 12.00 The Big Picture (512547) 1.30 Rock (2214) 2.00 Tennis (56479) 3.00 Rock (56479) 5.00 Motor Cycling (512547) 7.00 European (51769) 8.00 American (512547) 9.00 Rock (56479) 10.00 Rock (56479) 11.00 Rock (56479) 12.00 Rock (56479) 13.00 Rock (56479) 14.00 Rock (56479) 15.00 Rock (56479) 16.00 Rock (56479) 17.00 Rock (56479) 18.00 Rock (56479) 19.00 Rock (56479) 20.00 Rock (56479) 21.00 Rock (56479) 22.00 Rock (56479) 23.00 Rock (56479) 24.00 Rock (56479) 25.00 Rock (56479) 26.00 Rock (56479) 27.00 Rock (56479) 28.00 Rock (56479) 29.00 Rock (56479) 30.00 Rock (56479) 31.00 Rock (56479) 32.00 Rock (56479) 33.00 Rock (56479) 34.00 Rock (56479) 35.00 Rock (56479) 36.00 Rock (56479) 37.00 Rock (56479) 38.00 Rock (56479) 39.00 Rock (56479) 40.00 Rock (56479) 41.00 Rock (56479) 42.00 Rock (56479) 43.00 Rock (56479) 44.00 Rock (56479) 45.00 Rock (56479) 46.00 Rock (56479) 47.00 Rock (56479) 48.00 Rock 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